Hafa Adai!

Shayne Villanueva asks court for travel authorization. PAGE 2
Rep. Castro: Hyatt's issues didn't just happen overnight. PAGE 3

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 93

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY MAY 9, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Theisen withdraws acceptance of CUC offer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Professional engineer Christopher Theisen has withdrawn his acceptance of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s offer to serve as executive director due to contractual issues, according to CUC board chair Janice A. Tenorio yesterday.

Tenorio

"Unfortunately, while agreeing in principle, CUC and Theisen were unable to agree on the final terms of his employment contract, and thus have parted ways," said Tenorio in a statement.

Saipan Tribune sought comment from Tenorio after

See THEISEN on Page 4

Lillian Ada Tenorio takes oath of office

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Superior Court Associate Judge Lillian Ada Tenorio, center, poses for a photo with other Superior Court judges after she was administered the oath of office yesterday at the Guma Hustisia building in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Superior Court Associate Judge Lillian Ada Tenorio was administered the oath of office yesterday at the Guma Hustisia building in Susupe.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lillian Ada Tenorio is officially a full-fledged CNMI Superior Court associate judge after being administered the oath of office during a special investiture ceremony yesterday at the Guma Hustisia building in Susupe.

During the ceremony, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios administered the oath of office for Tenorio.

Palacios, after administering the oath, also took the opportunity to congratulate the new associate judge stating that he has all the

See LILLIAN on Page 4

IPI creditors to file motion to dismiss IPI's bankruptcy petition

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's unfinished casino resort in the heart of Garapan is photographed at sunset.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Claiming that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is abusing the Chapter 11 bankruptcy process, IPI creditors gave the U.S. District Court for the NMI notice that it will be filing a motion to dismiss the casino investor's bankruptcy petition.

Last week, IPI creditor Joshua Gray (through attorneys Bruce Berline and

See CREDITORS on Page 4

Babauta

Babauta removed as chair of JGL Committee

» DeLeon Guerrero notes that JGL Committee has 30 Senate bills, 28 House bills pending

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing numerous pending bills and not holding a committee meeting for eight months, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) removed Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) as chairwomen of the Senate Judiciary, Government & Law Committee.

See BABAUTA on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Marianas Lady Eagle Group recently hosted a successful Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza at the Garapan Roundouse.
PAGE 5

BUSINESS
Triple J Saipan, Inc., a leader in providing quality affordable housing on Saipan, is proud to announce that leasing specialist Beckylynn Reyes has successfully obtained her Novogradac Property Compliance Certification.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
One-time movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was returned to a New York City jail in what his publicist said Tuesday was the result from a published report claiming he was getting VIP treatment during his 10-day stay at a hospital.
PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Shayne Villanueva asks court for travel authorization

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shayne Blanco Villanueva, who is currently facing contempt charges for refusing to answer questions during a legislative investigation on the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together grant program, has asked the court for a bail modification allowing him to travel off-island for business.

Villanueva appeared before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja for a bail modification hearing last Tuesday and sought for his passport to be returned to him and to allow him to travel off-island for business.

Villanueva tearfully shared that his business in the CNMI is struggling because his reputation has been ruined.

"Not having my passport is like handcuffing me. My reputation, even after all the volunteering that I've done, is pretty much ruined at this point. I'm doing my best to try to maintain my businesses to pay my bills. It's difficult at this time, for me. I promise to come back, I'm not leaving for vacation. This is something that I need, I don't have a daytime job," he said.

Villanueva shared that he has two business trips in the next few weeks and promises to provide the court with his travel itinerary and ticket.

After hearing from both parties, Naraja granted Villanueva's request and authorized the release of his passport.

In an interview with assistant attorney general James Kingman, he said the application for bail modification was reasonable.

"I didn't really oppose it. The point of bail conditions is to guarantee a compliance with the court's orders and with appearance with court. Mr. Villanueva hasn't given any indication that he isn't going to comply with the court's conditions. I think it's a fair accommodation by the court," he said.

Shayne Villanueva leaves the courtroom of Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja after a bail modification hearing last Tuesday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The court also set Villanueva's case for trial in October.

Kingman shared that it hasn't been determined if it will be a jury or bench trial but because the charge is a misdemeanour it's most likely going to be a bench trial.

Stage set for Las Vegas Night: It's a Big Deal

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Rotarians discuss the upcoming Las Vegas Night: It's a Big Deal during their weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com CORRESPONDENT

With just two more days until Las Vegas Night: It's a Big Deal on May 11, the Rotary Club of Saipan is ready and excited to see the return of one of their signature fundraising events.

It takes place this Saturday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and is expected to bring fun and excitement not only for casino enthusiasts, but also for philanthropic supporters as they get an opportunity to donate for a good cause.

"At 11am they'll register, and then at noon is when the games officially start. Right now, we're looking at up to 100 slots for the Texas Hold 'Em Tournament," said Rotary Club sergeant-at-arms Curtis Dancoe at their weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Aside from the Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, Las Vegas Night: It's a Big Deal will also start with bingo and both games will be until the end of the event at midnight.

"There will be some cash games available after the entry of the registrant. Cash games, when you muck out and you no longer can do a re-buy or two re-buys, then you're done. You can pick up, there will be a few tables left where they can pick up some cash games where the Rotary Club will take a 5% rate for future donations for community service projects," said Dancoe.

Las Vegas Night: It's a Big Deal's highlight will be the blackjack and roulette table games at 6pm, offering patrons a diverse array of gaming options until just before midnight. Dancoe shared that an entrance fee is not required, but to be a part of the prizes and games, attendees must buy a ticket.

Tickets are $20 each and are currently being sold at Paradise Dental Clinic, Latte Built Gym, MegaByte, and Triple J Motors. Those with tickets will also have a chance to win raffle prizes and door prizes.

The raffle grand prize winner will drive home a 2024 Mitsubishi Mirage Hatchback or $10,000 in cash, first-place winner will get $3,000, second place will win $2,000, third place will win $1,000, and fourth place will get $500.

Door prizes are given away hourly from 7p to 11pm with iPads, iPhones, and gift certificates for massages, lunches, dinners, and overnight stays up for grabs. Unlike raffle prizes, winners of door prizes must be present to win.

ORIGINAL
Stuffed Crust®
LARGE 1-TOPPING
$19.99
Additional charge for extra cheese and toppings.
Pizza Hut
Stop by your NEWLY RENOVATED Pizza Hut at
GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL CENTER
DELIVERY & CARRYOUT • SAIPAN (670) 235-9333
2 Large Specialty Pizzas | $18.99 EACH
Must purchase TWO LARGE pizzas. Additional charge for Pan, Stuffed Crust, extra cheese and toppings.
Melts
Pepperoni Lover's®
Meat Lover's®
Chicken Bacon Parmesan
$9.99
CHEESY • CRISPY • LOADED
Additional charge for extra dipping sauce, no substitutions.
USE THIS COUPON AT SAIPAN PIZZA HUT ONLY
$2 OFF Lunch Buffet
SAT - SUN: 11 AM - 2 PM
COUPON EXPIRES 6/30/24. AVAILABLE AT SAIPAN PIZZA HUT ONLY. SEE RESTAURANT FOR DETAILS.
Buffet days and hours of availability may change at any time. One coupon per person per purchase. Please mention coupon when ordering. Products not exactly as shown. The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC. © 2024 Pizza Hut, LLC
Pizza Hut
LIMITED TIME OFFERS. Not available in some locations. Product availability, combinability of discounts and specials, delivery areas and charges may vary. Limited time only. Available at the participating Pizza Hut® Restaurant on Saipan. Products not exactly as shown. Delivery charges apply and do not include a gratuity. $15 minimum order for delivery. Limited delivery area. Cinnabon® and the Cinnabon® logo are registered trademarks of Cinnabon Franchisor SPV LLC. © 2024 Cinnabon Franchisor SPV LLC The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC. © 2024 Pizza Hut, LLC

NMC students present research at Conference on Island Sustainability in Guam

NMC

From left, Northern Marianas College Natural Resources Management Program coordinator and instructor Kelsey Lynn McClellan and NMC students Mark Terlaje Pangelinan, Kina Rangamar, Kianna Reyes, and Christopher Pangelinan recently presented at the 15th Annual Conference on Island Sustainability hosted by the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability.

Four Northern Marianas College Natural Resource Management students, three of whom are in the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program, had the opportunity to attend the 15th Annual Conference on Island Sustainability hosted by the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability. The conference featured regional leaders, scientists, and subject matter experts from across the region and included speakers, panel discussions on various topics relating to sustainability, and multiple breakout sessions.

A program priority for the Natural Resource Management Program is to connect students with Pacific researchers and professionals, identify career pathways, and build our students' experiential learning. NMC students Kina Rangamar, Kianna Reyes, Mark Terlaje Pangelinan, and Christopher Pangelinan participated in this year's conference and highlighted the opportunity to meet, connect, and present to researchers from across the region.

"Having the opportunity to present this research to a diverse audience of researchers from across Micronesia in an environment where Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge is cherished was truly a remarkable experience for me and my cohorts," said Pangelinan.

The students also presented their research that was conducted at NMC's Research Symposium held last March. Christopher Pangelinan and Kianna Reyes, who were awarded best poster presentation at last March's symposium, presented their research poster entitled "Shoreline Monitoring of Saipan's West-Facing Beaches," a study on using rod-and-level surveys that found west-facing Saipan beaches showing a mix of stability, erosion, and accretion, with areas near tourist hubs experiencing more erosion while some areas showing signs of sediment build-up

See NMC on Page 4

25TH ANNUAL
Taste of the Marianas
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL
PRESENTS
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota
OMG! OH MY GRILL
INTERNATIONAL FOOD CHALLENGE
MAY 11 2024 SATURDAY
DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER
SANG HYUK KWON VS SACHIYO MASUBUCHI
7 PM | AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK GARAPAN, SAIPAN, THE MARIANAS
INFO@MYMARIANAS.COM | +1 (670) 664-3200

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DLNR-42400084-CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 4, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR FOR DLNR, ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY BY MAY 23, 2024, TO MR. RICHARD V. SALAS VIA EMAIL AT rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Rep. Castro: Hyatt's issues didn't just happen overnight

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although Hyatt Regency Saipan's announcement of closure was sudden, the issues they are facing didn't just happen overnight, according to Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan).

Castro shared his views about Hyatt Regency Saipan's announcement to permanently close on June 30, 2024 during the House of Representatives special session last Thursday.

Castro also stated that that the economic issues the CNMI are facing is an accumulation of systemic problems that happened over the years.

Castro

Saipan Portopia Corp. president Hitoshi Nakauchi said in a statement that despite their best efforts and after months of careful consideration and exploring many avenues, the harsh realities of the current landscape have forced them to make the difficult decision to close the hotel on June 30. Saipan Portopia owns Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Castro said the key thing that CNMI leaders really need to look at is eliminate the self-interests and mutual exclusivity in the laws and process.

"You cannot address the problem if you don't look at the historical issues that caused it," the lawmaker pointed out.

Castro said when COVID-19 hit, the CNMI had almost a billion dollars of assistance, but not every hotel received the same benefits.

He said when the CNMI was paying tourists to come in through travel box, certain hotels were receiving subsidies.

Castro said there are some hotels like Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and Hyatt that maybe didn't get the same arrangement.

"We have to look at who are the members that are getting the most benefit," he said.

The lawmaker said when looking at investors, it's not just about investing, bringing in investors, but also investing from within.

Castro said tourists want local products and local experience.

He said during one of his flights, someone was mentioning to him where to get local food.

Castro said there's very few restaurants that offer local food.

He said one of the first bills that he introduced was legislation to help small businesses, "but it's still sitting."

"And I'm not saying it because I introduced it. But we are trying. There's a lot of bills in here that we've been introducing to help with the situation," the lawmaker said.

Castro said a lot of these systemic issues are not going to be fixed overnight, so they really have to look at all the issues that have been accumulating over the past and correct them.

"But you know, we really can't address this overnight, and it takes time," he said.

Castro agreed with Rep. Marissa Renee Flores' (Ind-Saipan) statement that with all the money that came in during the pandemic, the CNMI's economic situation shouldn't be in this situation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CREDITORS

From page 1

Aaron Halegua) filed an opposition to a number of IPI's motions in relation to its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Gray, who has an outstanding federal court judgment of over $5 million, stated in its motion that IPI is abusing the Chapter 11 process in attempt to delay revocation of its license, avoid contempt proceedings, and slow the liquidation of its property.

Because of this, Gray informed the court that he and other IPI creditors expect to file a motion seeking to dismiss IPI's bankruptcy petition.

"IPI no longer has any 'operating business' that can be restructured. Gray expects that he and/or other creditors will be filing a motion to dismiss the bankruptcy petition. Indeed, IPI's parent company tried to argue before the High Court in Hong Kong that it planned to restructure its businesses in order to defeat a 'winding up' petition. However, the high court found that IPI had no means or realistic prospect of actually paying off its debts or reorganizing the company," said Gray.

Creditors Artman Corp., Fujitec Pacific, Inc., GT Building Systems International PTD, Ltd., Hermine Ipwan Islam dba Ipwan Security Services, U.S.A. Fanter Corp., Ltd., James Whang dba South Pacific Lumber Co., and Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP have all filed joinders essentially piggybacking off of Gray's opposition.

Gray, in its motion, claims that IPI is not operating in good faith.

"In its 'first-day motions,' the debtor is requesting the court to issue an order that approves a DIP loan arrangement for which it provides few facts, to approve monthly payments to the debtor's counsel, to approve PTO payments that accrued several years ago, and various other relief. The debtor is seeking to have these motions granted prior to IPI providing any specifics about its finances, and without giving IPI's creditors a fair opportunity to analyze or object to these Motions," said Gray.

First, Gray explains, IPI filed an "emergency" motion for these motions to be heard the same week that they were filed. However, there is no actual emergency.

"The debtor's bankruptcy counsel still has a significant retainer of $38,592.70 that should certainly fund at least a few weeks of work. There also must be other funds available to pay security guards, litigation counsel, etc., because IPI has been funding these things for years at this point despite the casino being closed since 2020. Therefore, there is no reason that IPI must be approved to incur an additional $7 million in loans so urgently," said Gray.

Second, Gray says IPI should be asking for an interim order granting its motions, but instead is trying to persuade the court to enter a permanent order.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

THEISEN

From page 1

learning yesterday that CUC issued a job vacancy announcement for the two-year contract as executive director. The JVA opening date was May 4, 2024 and the closing date is until the position is filled.

During the CUC board special meeting last Feb. 23, the board voted to offer the executive director position to Theisen.

"While we are disappointed that Mr. Theisen will not be joining us as executive director, we respect his decision and wish him the best in his future endeavors," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said they remain committed to finding the most qualified candidate to lead CUC and continue their mission of serving the community.

"CUC expresses its gratitude to all candidates who have expressed interest in the executive director position and assures stakeholders that the selection process will continue with diligence and transparency," the chairwoman said.

Theisen, who is from California, is supposed to arrive on Saipan this June 1.

The executive director's position has been vacant since Gary P. Camacho resigned on Feb. 21, 2023. CUC administration chief Betty G. Terlaje has been the acting executive director since April 2023.

Under the federal court-mandated orders called stipulated orders 1 and 1, CUC will be penalized if critical positions such as the executive director and chief financial officer are not filled within 150 days.

Last week, Tenorio disclosed that the board agreed to offer the position of the CFO to one of four candidates.

LILLIAN

From page 1

confidence in Tenorio as the newest Superior Court judge.

"I'm honored to have been asked to administer the oath of office for our judge Tenorio. I knew Lillian when I was in the lgislature. I knew her capacity, I knew her persona, and as a member of the Legislature, she never let me off the hook. We had very strong-willed members in the Legislature when she was our legal counsel and she never hesitated to tell us when we couldn't do something. So, I had the confidence in judge Tenorio when I had the privilege to appoint a new judge to the Superior Court of the CNMI after associate judge Bogdan retired. This is indeed a momentous occasion for all of us in this great Commonwealth community. Congratulations judge Tenorio may God bless you, and thank you," she said.

Tenorio, in her address, thanked all those who helped her along her journey.

"I want to express my gratitude to the Chief Justice Alexandro Castro and Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja and the court staff for organizing this investiture on such short notice, Gov. Palacios for placing his confidence in me, and the Senate voting unanimously to confirm my nomination. I have received, in full measure, support and respect from all corners of the judicial branch; from the justices, judges, the administrative managers, the clerks, you name it. They've been so helpful and so welcoming. Thank you. The journey to my presiding in this courtroom was made with many helping hands along the way. From mentors, to colleagues, and professors," she said.

Tenorio became the fourth female associate judge of the Superior Court after taking the oath of office on Feb. 20, 2024.

She was deputy attorney general for the CNMI from Jan. 31, 2015 to Feb.19, 2024, serving under the first elected attorney general, Edward Manibusan.

Prior to joining the Office of the Attorney General, Tenorio was in private practice as a solo practitioner from July 2004 to Jan. 30, 2015.

She has served as legal counsel for the House of Representatives (2002-2004) and as the law clerk to John A. Mangloña, Justice of the Supreme Court of the CNMI.

Tenorio received her B.A. from the University of California, Davis in 1984. She earned her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1999, and was the recipient of the Julia Raymond McCulloch Memorial Award for Constitutional Law and the CALI Excellence for the Future Award for the Study of Constitutional Law.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BABAUTA

From page 1

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was waiting for comment from Babauta.

DeLeon Guerrero said in a memorandum issued Tuesday that there are 30 Senate bills and 28 House of Representatives bills pending in the JGL Committee.

The Senate president also noted that JGL Committee's last meeting was held on Sept. 14, 2023.

DeLeon Guerrero said Babauta is also chairperson of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments & Government Investigations, which "has been extremely busy with Senate confirmations of executive appointments."

The Senate president said accordingly, pursuant to her authority under the Senate Interim Rules, she appoints Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) as the new chairperson of the JGL Committee.

King-Nabors will appoint the new members of the JGL Committee pursuant to the Senate Interim Rules and take over the administration of the committee effective that day, Tuesday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request to comment further yesterday, DeLeon Guerrero said every standing committee has an important role and responsibility to include review proposed legislations referred to committee for passage or not.

"The required work of the committee must go on with the numerous referred bills that have far exceeded their timelines for committee work," she said.

The Senate president said King-Nabors, who is the newly assigned JGL Committee chairman, understands the tasks ahead and the need to commit its members that have yet to be formed of the legislative work before the committee.

Last Jan. 12, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) questioned why 45 House bills have been sitting in the Senate for almost a year now. DeLeon Guerrero then stated that she is not holding any of Flores' bills.

NMC

From page 3

at the conference.

Mark Terlaje Pangelinan also presented his research on "Geographic Risk Assessment of Anoplolepis gracilipes on Saipan," as well as Kina Rangamar who presented on "Identifying Effective Communication Strategies for the Global Conservation Initiative."

"Christopher and I were honored to present our LSAMP internship findings at Guåhan's annual Conference for Island Sustainability, where we absorbed insights from various Pacific environmental leaders, poets, scientists, and artists—especially on championing sustainability and biodiversity in the Marianas Islands," said Reyes.

The four students also had the opportunity to tour the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands Lab and met with Supervisory Entomologist Dr. Ken Puliafico.

"As Chamorro and Refaluwasch students from Saipan, this brief but impactful experience allowed us to strengthen our camaraderie while further steeling our commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, made possible by the tireless efforts of our deeply appreciated mentors—Velma Deleon Guerrero and Kelsey McClellan, to whom we extend our deepest gratitude," said Reyes.

Funding for this opportunity was paid by the University of Guam NextGen COMPASS Program. For more information, contact Kelsey McClellan at kelsey.mcclellan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Lady Eagles holds Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza

Marianas Lady Eagle Group recently hosted a successful Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza at the Garapan Roundouse.

The event showcased a lineup of talented individuals dedicated to promoting health and wellness—Ernie Cruz, Joseph B. Caranto, and Apple Caranto from Let's Move Marianas, Joel E. Vallega, Helly I. Montes, Teresa Madriaga, Kevin Capulso, Arthur Salazar, Joey De Vera from Fitbeat familia, Salvacion "Bing" Olicia from Fitness in Motion, and Rhine Russell from Golds Gym.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors, including Saipan Water Co., Supertech Inc, Marpac, Sapphire Enterprises Inc./Salyn's Beauty Shop, Golds Gym, Savory, Chow-Time, Star G BBQ, Ace, Hardt Eye Clinic, Coca-Cola, Auto Marine, Golden Corp., and Puerto Rico Bento.

Their contributions helped make the Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza a memorable and impactful experience.

Attendees had the opportunity to purchase event T-shirts and tickets, as well as participate in a raffle and win exciting prizes generously donated by Marianas Lady Eagle Group members and sponsors. The overwhelming support from walk-in supporters and designated members of various fitness groups added to the vibrant and inclusive spirit of the event.

The Marianas Lady Eagles Group officers, led by president Mildred M. Pabilando, extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, supported, and contributed to the success of the Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza. Their dedication to promoting health and wellness in the community is truly inspiring and greatly appreciated.

Emcees Anabel Tudela and Elena Enriquez maintained the vibrant atmosphere and kept the crowd engaged throughout the evening, ensuring a lively and entertaining experience for all attendees. The event concluded with closing remarks by Edmin A. Elayda, president of Marianas Eagles Club, the sponsor organization of Marianas Lady Eagles Group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Marianas Lady Eagles Group officers, led by president Mildred M. Pabilando, extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, supported, and contributed to the success of the Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza.

The event was a testament to the dedication and passion of all those involved, and the Marianas Lady Eagle Group extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the Fundraising Zumba Marathon Extravaganza a resounding success.

Stay tuned for more exciting events and initiatives from Marianas Lady Eagle Group as it continues to work together toward a healthier and happier community for all.

Marianas Eagles Club and Marianas Lady Eagle Group is now accepting new members. Whether you are a newcomer to Saipan or a long-time resident looking to embark on a rewarding journey with service to a strong sisterhood and brotherhood and to be part of a vibrant group dedicated to serving and helping others, Marianas Lady Eagle Group is thrilled to announce that, Marianas Eagle Group and Marianas Lady Eagle Group warmly welcomes individuals who are passionate about making a positive impact to the community.

Marianas Eagles Club and Marianas Lady Eagles Group are under the umbrella of Saipan-Guam Eagles District under the leadership of district governor Marcelo V. Masilungan, regional governor Bernard Lim, Samuel Lim, PNP and International Affairs chair, and national president Jeffrey C. Maravilla of The Fraternal Order of Eagles (Philippine Eagles established in 1979). ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/PHS-PRAMS-012
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEMS (PRAMS)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Opening: Air Conditioning Technician
Job Summary: The Air Conditioning Technician, under the general direction of the Operations Manager, performs duties and responsibilities involving the installation, maintenance, and repair of air conditioning, equipment, and fixtures; ensures that work is in accordance with relevant codes.
Education: High School Diploma/GED
Work Experience: Four years of relevant work experience.
To Apply: Interested individuals may submit a resume to: Winzy Corporation, P.O. Box 5054 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; Tel#: (670)234-3870; located at Winzy Corporation, Monsignor Guerrero Road, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, MP.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Opening: Electrician
Job Summary: The Electrician, under the general direction of the Operations Manager, performs duties and responsibilities involving the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures; ensures that work is in accordance with relevant codes.
Education: High School Diploma/GED
Work Experience: One year of relevant work experience.
To Apply: Interested individuals may submit a resume to: Winzy Corporation, P.O. Box 5054 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; Tel#: (670)234-3870; located at Winzy Corporation, Monsignor Guerrero Road, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, MP.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Works
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS SURROUNDING TINIAN ROUTE 205 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

APPLICANT: CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
PROJECT: TINIAN ROUTE 205 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The CNMI Department of Public Works submitted a Major Siting application to the Division of Coastal Resources Management for the improvement of Tinian Route 205 on 16 April 2024. The application was assigned Coastal Permit No. TMS-2024-044.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed action includes paving the existing gravel road from the Route 205/Route 206 intersection to the Route 27 intersection. The project's starting point is at Park Avenue, which is also known as Route 27, and it extends until it reaches the Route 206 intersection. The Right-Of-Way (ROW), which refers to the land acquired for the construction and maintenance of the road, has specific dimensions along different sections of the project. From Park Avenue to the intersection of route 205, the ROW width is 60 feet and spans approximately 1,000 linear feet. The Route 205 ROW width is 40 feet and spans approximately 2,700 linear feet until it reaches the Route 206 intersection. Total length of road to be paved is approximately 3,700 linear feet (0.7 miles).

The project includes improvements to the drainage system, drainage conveyance to the ponding basin, and utility adjustments.

Biological surveys were conducted by Micronesian Environmental Services (19 November - 2 December 2020 and 25 October-14 November 2023) to determine whether federally threatened or endangered species would be affected by the proposed action.
No federally threatened or endangered species were detected during the surveys.

This notice is being issued to comply with NMIAC §15-10-206(e)(2)(i) "Alternative Adjacent Property Owner Notification".

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300 if you have any questions or would like more information on the Tinian Route 205 Improvement project.

Opinion

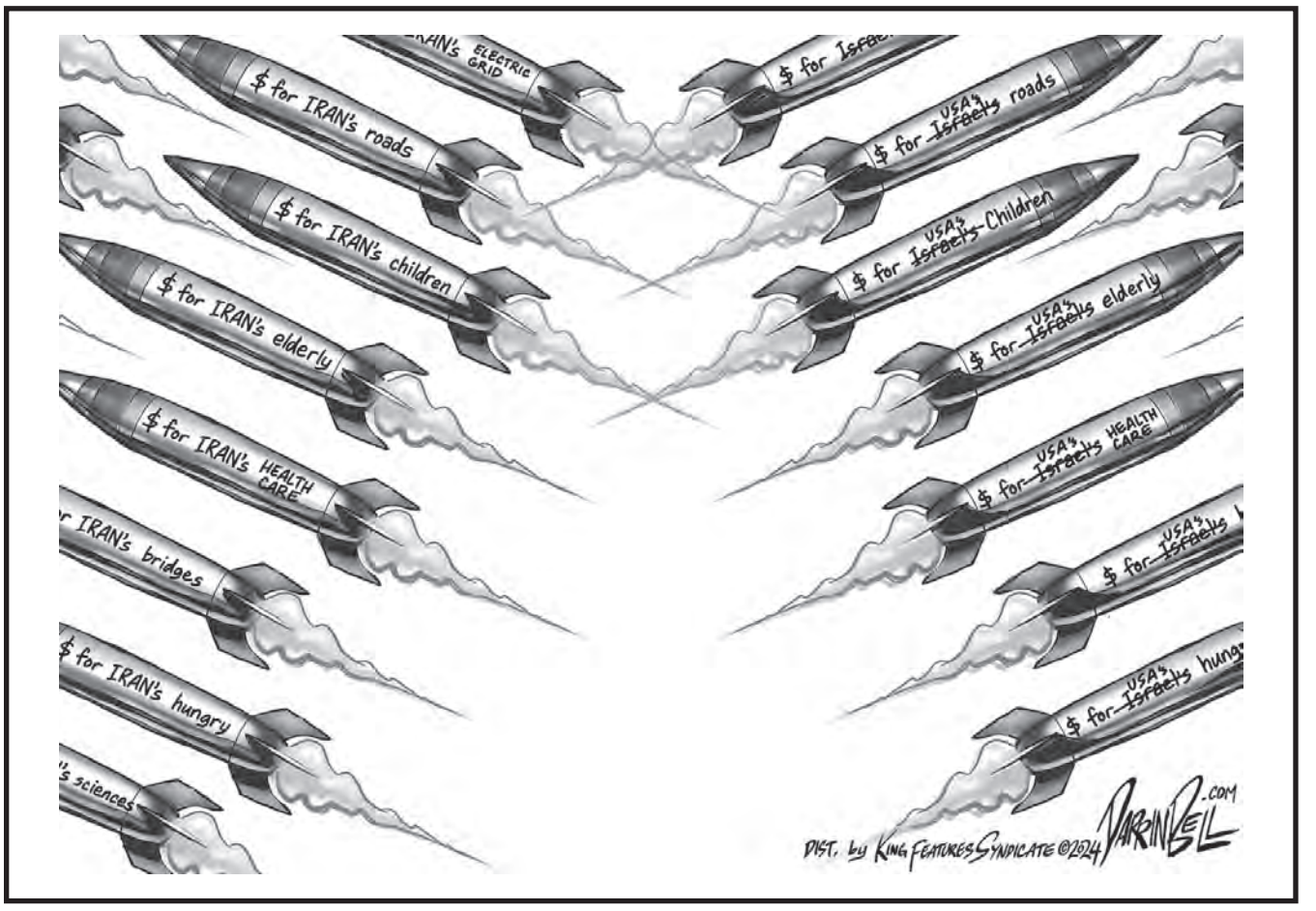
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 93

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


$ for IRAN's roads
$ for IRAN's children
$ for IRAN's elderly
$ for IRAN's HEALTH CARE
$ for IRAN's bridges
$ for IRAN's hungry
$ for USA's Israel's roads
$ for USA's Israel's Children
$ for USA's Israel's elderly
$ for USA's Israel's HEALTH CARE
DIST. by KING FEATURES SYNDICATE ©2024 MARINVELL .COM

EDITORIAL

Keep Johnson as speaker: Marjorie Taylor Greene must not succeed in knocking him out

There will be a vote to remove Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson this week and it will fail thanks to Democratic Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. It's not that Jeffries doesn't want to become speaker himself, but that will be decided by the American people six months from today, on Election Day, when all 435 seats are being contested.

Control of the gavel should not be decided by wacko Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who is pushing to topple Johnson because he actually did the correct and responsible thing. What the speaker did right was bringing to the floor an aid package for besieged Ukraine against the wishes of the isolationist wing of his own Republican conference.

Shamefully, the majority of his party colleagues voted no. The $60.8 billion for Ukraine passed two weeks ago relying on Democratic votes. Among Republicans, 53% of them voted no, while 100% of the Democrats voted yes. Putin hasn't conquered Kyiv, but he has captured the House Republicans.

Greene, who is more MAGA-crazed than Donald Trump himself and sees hero Volodymyr Zelenskyy as the villain, wants Johnson out because of that.

On March 22, incensed as Johnson edged closer to allowing the Ukraine bill to come to the floor after the Democrats began collecting signatures for a discharge petition to force the Ukraine measure to the floor (as we had urged), she filed her own short motion, H.Res.1103, saying "Resolved, That the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives is hereby declared to be vacant." It is the same 17 words that were used to topple the previous Republican speaker, Kevin McCarthy.

Winding back to last fall, McCarthy's downfall started when he reasonably cut a deal with President Biden and Senate Democrats to keep the government funded on Sept. 30. It passed the House with 58% of the GOP on the bill, but still had to have Democratic votes to get the necessary two-thirds. So even though he had the backing of most of his conference, needing the Democrats was an anathema to the hardest core radicals.

McCarthy foe Matt Gaetz, who insisted when McCarthy first squeaked into power on the 15th vote that a single member be allowed to make a motion to vacate the chair, pushed the button on Oct. 3.

McCarthy's allies tried to table the matter, but 11 in his own party sided with the Democrats to let it advance. Then on the motion to vacate, Gaetz was joined by seven others. It only needed six defectors, so eight was plenty and McCarthy was ousted.

Greene supported McCarthy throughout, so she wasn't in

See KEEP on Page 7

Don't denigrate pro-Palestinian campus protests by claiming the Vietnam War protests backfired

By RONIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

When did it become fashionable to diminish the accomplishments of Vietnam War-era protesters by accusing them of inflated self-regard and delusions about what their activism accomplished?

In my view, the situation in the Mideast is more nuanced and complex than the United States' involvement in Vietnam ever was. Israel's horrific response notwithstanding, I fear that many pro-Palestinian student activists are naively unwilling to confront the role that Hamas and its allies have played in the conflict.

But telling students that their agitation is pointless or merely performative because some folks have doubts about the effectiveness of the anti-Vietnam War movement is just wrong.

"Those students didn't shorten that terrible war," wrote New York Times columnist Nick Kristof about the protesters of the late 1960s. "Instead, they probably prolonged it."

"The nostalgic champions of the campus protests of the '60s would have Americans believe they were a heroic success, stopping the Vietnam War," wrote Jonah Goldberg in the Los Angeles Times. "But what they actually helped achieve was Richard Nixon's election and seven more years of war."

There is certainly some truth there.

Americans chose Republican Richard Nixon over Democrat Hubert Humphrey in 1968, at a time when urban uprisings and all kinds of political turbulence had exhausted voters. The Democratic Party was in disarray after President Lyndon B. Johnson declined to run again, Robert Kennedy was assassinated and the peace candidate, Eugene McCarthy, failed in his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination at the party convention. Nixon, after all, famously courted that "silent majority" of presumably politically moderate Americans. But Nixon also promised to end the Vietnam War, which a solid majority of the American public had soured on after the Tet Offensive in early 1968.

But blaming antiwar protesters for Nixon's decision to protract the war in his misguided search for "peace with honor" and with his clandestine bombing of Cambodia is unfair.

And using that conclusion to critique today's student protesters, who have upended college campuses with their pro-Palestinian protests and encampments, trivializes the precious American right to protest peacefully.

After Nixon was elected, the antiwar movement gained a legitimacy that led to real change.

In response to a spate of civil disobedience, including organized draft card burnings, Nixon acknowledged that the deeply unpopular draft had to end. By 1972, a year before the Paris Peace Accords ended America's role in the war, more U.S. men had filed for conscientious objector status than were actually drafted. By some estimates, 100,000 young men are believed to have left the country rather than fight in a morally indefensible conflict that had exacted a terrible cost in American and Vietnamese blood and treasure.

Veterans like John Kerry, a Navy Swift boat commander horrified by what he'd seen and experienced in Vietnam, came home and campaigned against the war. How could anyone deny the effect Vietnam Veterans Against the War had on public sentiment?

In early 1971 in Detroit, the group convened the Winter Soldier investigations, a three-day event where Vietnam veterans testified about atrocities that they had both witnessed and inflicted. And later that year, Kerry became the first Vietnam vet to testify on Capitol Hill.

"Each day," he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the spring of 1971, "someone has to give up his life so that the United States doesn't have to admit something that the entire world already knows, so that we can't say that we have made a mistake. How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

Here are some other ways antiwar protesters of that era helped change this country for the better:

Since the founding, the voting age in this country was 21. The idea that you could kill or die for your country but not have a voice in its politics finally became untenable during the Vietnam War. Barry Maguire's 1965 hit song, "Eve of Destruction"—"You're old enough to kill, but not for votin'"—helped crystallize the issue, and the 26th Amendment was ratified on July 1, 1971.

Americans' blind faith in their government was forever shaken by the release of the Pentagon Papers, purloined and made public by Daniel Ellsberg, the onetime military analyst turned antiwar activist, and The New York Times and The Washington Post. The leaked portion of the Defense Department report revealed to the public that the government had systematically lied about the war for years to the public and to Congress.

See DENIGRATE on Page 7

The chaos in Congress is more dangerous than the protests on campuses

LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

Last week Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) ignored Donald Trump's endorsement of Rep. Mike Johnson (R-La.) as House speaker and announced plans to try to force him out. One can only assume she is making that attempt for attention, because it seems doomed to fail on the House floor. Democrats have already pledged to support Johnson, and he has backing from much of the Republican caucus.

You may recall, Greene and the rest of the Freedom Caucus were the reason it took 15 rounds for former Rep. Kevin McCarthy to get enough votes to win the speakership. The caucus is also why he got fired last October, after less than a year. He resigned from the House at the end of last year.

And now Greene—who infamously blamed secret Jewish space lasers for wildfires and compared mask mandates to the Holocaust—is making another play for the spotlight. This time it happened to be the same week that the House passed its Antisemitism Awareness Act, an unnecessary bill that at best appears to be doing something. At a moment when pro-Palestinian and humanitarian aid demonstrations are spreading across college campuses, the law would target dangerous speech against Jews … but the nation already has relevant laws against hate crimes and certain types of speech.

The juxtaposition of Greene's stunt seems rich, doesn't it? Does the ruling party in the House condemn anti-Jewish hate speech or amplify it? Do Republicans stand for order or chaos?

The legislation passed 320-91. There were 70 Democrats who voted against it. Greene was among the 21 Republicans who opposed it. Much of the concern from the nays was on defining antisemitism. Some critics feared the measure would infringe on freedom of speech.

What does Greene hope to achieve with her nay vote? Or with her campaign to oust Johnson? It's anyone's guess. Two years ago, she spoke at a white nationalist conference, and still she was reelected. Maybe she is exactly what her constituents want. She is very much not what Republican leaders in the House want right now.

For those House Republicans who don't hang out with white nationalists or say antisemitic things, but who have coddled Greene and the Freedom Caucus, the brewing storm looks a lot like karma. You can't embrace a platform based on anti-intellectualism and half-truths and then get mad when someone does something stupid.

Trumpeting her intention to force Johnson out of the speakership because he worked with Democrats to pass Ukraine aid, Greene said she "can't wait to see my Republican conference show their cards and show who we are." Giving us her best Joan of Arc, she added: "Are they willing to actually fight? Or are they going to just keep going along to get along?"

The challenge Greene represents is not about differences in policy. This is about what's required in a democracy. We are a flawed nation working toward a more perfect union. But we are never going to get there by continuing to allow the most immature among us to get their way. And forcing the House to look for a third House speaker in one term would be incredibly immature.

And here's the thing: The rot within the Republican Party does damage far beyond Congress. Members of the Freedom Caucus have behaved like spiteful toddlers since 2015 by obstructing government and as a result have normalized tantrums. Now, as the nation is debating what to do about humanitarian aid in Gaza and the protests on our college campuses, the serious conversations that we need to have are constantly being hijacked by political theater—including the House's antisemitism bill and the recent parade of hearings to grill college officials.

Domestic politics should not distract us from why so many are protesting. Last month the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution asking for Israel to be investigated and held accountable for possible war crimes. Many of the weapons being used in its war against Hamas are American. Everyone in the U.S. should be concerned about Israel's war and the safety of people in both Gaza and Israel.

Many students I've spoken with are focused on the hostages and civilian casualties. Meanwhile some leaders in Washington are fixated on political theater or trying to micromanage campuses or on toppling the latest speaker of the House. There is chaos on both fronts and regrettably immaturity as well.

My mother set herself on fire. Why do people choose to self-immolate?

By NINA ST. PIERRE
Los Angeles Times

Nina St. Pierre, a culture writer and essayist in New York, is the author of the memoir "Love Is a Burning Thing."

Ten years before I was born, at 4:40 on the morning of Nov. 10, 1971, my mother and another woman sat "yogi-style" on the floor of an Ann Arbor, Michigan, kitchen and lit themselves on fire. They were just blocks from the University of Michigan campus, where my mother had been a student. She had just turned 20. Police tracked the smell of burning hair to find the women sitting on the floor, facing each other, screaming.

"They weren't doing anything to put the fire out," Police Chief Walter Krasny told the Ann Arbor News. "We have no idea why they would do something like this. They didn't use gasoline or anything. We presume they were fully clothed in street clothing and just set themselves on fire."

My mother's self-immolation was the prologue to my life. Every time another instance of self-immolation occurs, as happened earlier this month outside a courthouse in New York City, I wonder about the people and where they sit in the lineage of the act. The inevitable think pieces after a high-profile self-immolation often sound the same, because what can one say? It's an incredibly contextual act. It's personal, and political. The act is the message, and vice versa. You cannot understand what it means without knowing the person's story. And sometimes not even then.

I've always been reluctant to link my mother's story to any sort of protest. It felt both sensational and inaccurate to place her suicide attempt into the political history of self-immolation. Because of our cultural tendency toward binary thinking, people are quick to pick a label to understand this act: protest or illness. To accept an act as protest neither negates nor implies mental illness. Both things could be true at once, and other factors altogether could be in play. Implying that mental illness precludes taking a stance is infantilizing.

Many rushed to conclude that mental illness had led a U.S. airman, Aaron Bushnell, to kill himself in February. He set himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington. However, Bushnell had posted on social media that he was going to kill himself in protest, and screamed "Free Palestine" as he went up in flames.

If an individual offers an explanation, I've always been inclined to accept their statement as is. When they do not, things are stickier. My mother, who died in 2005, spoke about her decision to me only once, when I was 12. Looking back on her account as an adult, I believe that mental illness was one factor. But she also told me she had been drawn to the student activism sweeping the country at that time. I have never found either of those explanations complete enough.

The year my mother and the woman with her burned, 1971, marked the end of a string of Vietnamese monks self-immolating following Thích Quảng Đức's burning at a Saigon intersection. It was an era of protest, student unrest, spiritual awakening and the cultism that often accompanies fading trust in institutions. Martyrdom and protest, profound grief and psychological angst were in the ether—as they are now. This month in New York City, as one man burned himself in the protest zone outside Donald Trump's trial, students uptown were demonstrating for a free Palestine. I can't help the gnawing sensation that while moving forward, we have also traveled back. Now, I wonder, whether my mother and the other woman were somehow tapping a cultural current of the early '70s. Channeling it.

In a 1965 letter to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Vietnamese monk Thích Nhất Hạnh wrote about how difficult it is

for the Western Christian conscience to understand the self-immolation of Vietnamese monks. He explained that the actions were neither suicide nor protest, but were devotional: "During the ceremony of ordination, as practiced in the Mahayana [Buddhist] tradition, the monk-candidate is required to burn one, or more, small spots on his body in taking the vow to observe the 250 rules of a bhikshu, to live the life of a monk, to attain enlightenment and to devote his life to the salvation of all beings. … The importance is not to take one's life, but to burn. What he really aims at is the expression of his will and determination, not death."

According to news reports, in the ambulance on the way to the University of Michigan Burn Center, my mother or the woman she burned with whispered: "It's lovely to die together." At no point that night, or in the months that followed, as my mother healed and the other woman eventually died in the hospital, did they ever make a statement to police. They refused to say more about their intent. As such, theirs was an almost anomalous case—resisting efforts to be categorized as protest or illness.

For a long time, I thought her burning had no place in this larger sociopolitical context, but the more I see it refracted through today's lens, the more I understand that even without stated intent, an act of self-burning is inherently political. People around the world have self-immolated because of job loss or oppressive domestic or cultural environments. They have burned to protest political regimes and to decry imperialism. They have burned, as the monks did, to express will. Whatever the impetus, maybe no other act has so exemplified the personal as political. And maybe it's no coincidence that "personal is political" was coined by feminists in 1970—the year before my mother's suicide attempt, when people were fighting for many of the civil rights being rolled back now, state by state.

What does an individual act of self-immolation mean? That can be hard to answer, but what's clear to me is that these acts have meaning, and that meaning is often multifaceted. They could be conveying pain within themselves, or in their families, or in the larger systems in which we work and love and live. Whether in illness or protest or both, or for other reasons entirely, they are expressing their "will and determination." With their bodies, they are saying "look here now." If burning oneself is a way of speaking out, we oversimplify or sensationalize the act at our own peril.

DENIGRATE

From page 6

As someone whose family was active in the antiwar movement, and who was present as a child when Los Angeles police officers attacked antiwar protesters outside the Century Plaza Hotel in 1967, I recognize my own bias here.

Will the current protest movement have an effect on American foreign policy and President Biden's support for Israel's devastating and disproportionate retaliation for the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas?

Perhaps, like the Vietnam War protests of the last century, there will be short-term backlash followed by long-term positive change.

Claiming the protests are misguided, or doing more harm than good, is presumptuous in the extreme.

KEEP

From page 6

on the fun. But this it's all her doing. Johnson correctly ignored Greene's threats and moved ahead on Ukraine. She added isolationist Thomas Massie on April 16 and kook Paul Gosar on April 19. But Johnson stood firm and the House voted the next day, April 20, to aid Ukraine. It was Hitler's birthday, an earlier invader of Ukraine.

There are 217 Republicans and 212 Democrats (soon to be 213 when Tim Kennedy from Buffalo is seated). Having Greene and her two allies would be enough to overthrow Johnson if all the Democrats joined. But that won't happen. Tom Suozzi was the first to say no and now so has Jeffries and his leadership team. They are not supporting Johnson, but opposing Greene. Good for them.

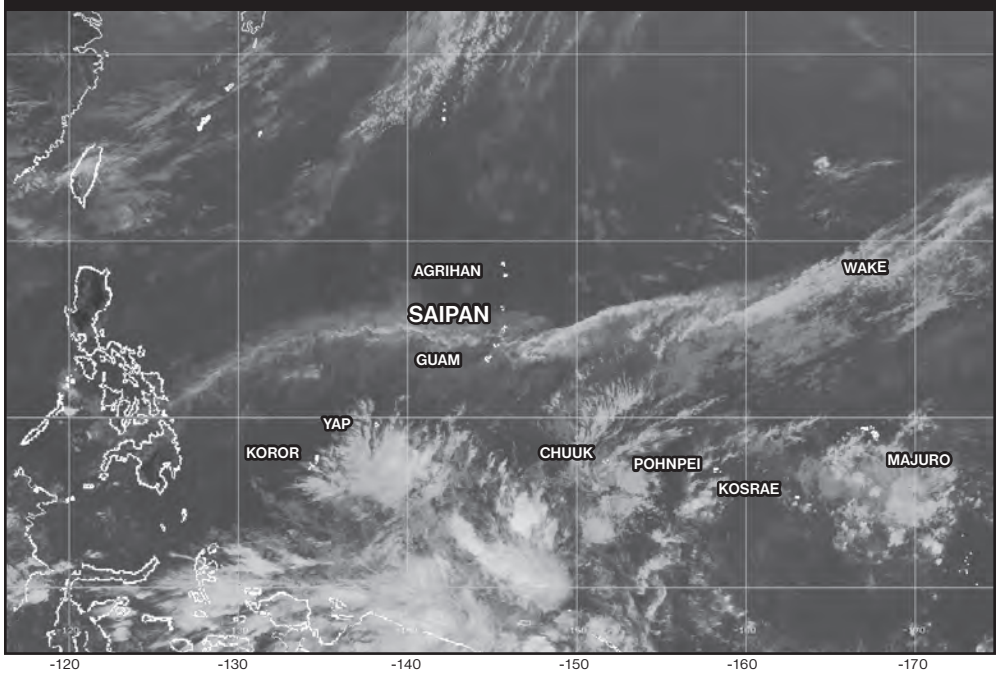
©2024 New York Daily News.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy in the morning becoming partly cloudy. Isolated showers Guam and Rota. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
88° 77°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:45 AM TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing spotty showers across the Marianas, with a shield of cirrus clouds streaming north. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 4 to 7 feet in the coastal waters. Winds are gentle.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	81° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:22 AM	7:49 PM	-
Friday	7:16 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	8:14 AM	9:53 PM	-
Sunday	9:13 AM	10:48 PM	-
Monday	10:11 AM	11:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 52°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	97° / 82°
Melbourne	Rain	57° / 45°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 74°
New York	Showers	56° / 39°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 52°
Busan	Rain	66° / 61°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°
Salem	Showers	73° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 51°
Seoul	Rain	66° / 55°
Tokyo	Cloudy	70° / 63°
Washington, DC	Showers	61° / 38°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:20 AM	Low Tide	1.19
7:23 AM	High Tide	2.12
2:43 PM	Low Tide	-0.37
9:46 PM	High Tide	2.08

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

OIA announces $2.5M in TAP grants for US Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs recently announced $2,485,000 in fiscal year 2024 Technical Assistance Program funding to the U.S. Virgin Islands to purchase needed medical equipment, train youth for employment, and train utility employees in energy grid management and integration across power sources.

"Funding to the U.S. Virgin Islands this year will help youth develop employable skills, train utility employees in energy grid and integration with renewable sources, purchase needed medical equipment, and help non-profit organizations develop local expertise in grants and project management," said Carmen G. Cantor, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "Through these awards, the TAP program continues to make a difference for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands by supporting small but impactful programs in the Insular Areas."

Funding provided through the Office of Insular Affairs TAP program will support the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands for the following project:

■ Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency—$285,000 will help provide updates to the Audio-Visual technology at the Emergency Operations Center.

The Office of Insular Affairs is also providing $2,200,000 to fund semi-autonomous agencies, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations with projects designed to benefit the USVI as follows:

■ Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority—$500,000 for a Renewable Integration and Smart Grid Training Development Program to train personnel in managing and maintaining the current power grid, including developing smart microgrids through the integration of renewable energy, battery storage systems, and smart grid controls.

■ Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority—$500,000 for the Power Generation Training and Development

» Includes training for energy grid management and integration

Program, tailored to provide power plant employees with the technical expertise and hands-on training required to carry out their responsibilities. The utility is currently completing installation of three reciprocating internal engines and plans to incorporate new wind and solar power sources to the energy grid in the territory.

■ Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center—$400,000 for Reinforcing the Capabilities of Imaging and Diagnostics at a Sole Community Hospital — Nuclear Medicine Unit, to purchase state-of-the-art nuclear medicine imaging equipment, which will enable healthcare providers to accurately diagnose and treat various diseases, including cancer, heart conditions, and neurological disorders.

■ Future Job Skills of Tomorrow—$400,000 for the Workforce Development Project to create an apprenticeship collaborative with Gold Coast Yachts in St. Croix and build long-term sustainable employment opportunities in marine construction for local youth. The new project will offer training and certification in carpentry, masonry, electrical skills, upholstery, and joinery.

■ St. Croix Foundation for Community Development—$200,000 for Civic Sector Capacity Building for Resilience, which is a program designed to increase the capacity of St. Croix's nonprofit organizations to respond to and plan for imminent threats and urgent needs facing the St. Croix community through strengthened grant writing, project management, and financial management training and workshops.

■ Association of State and Territorial Health Officials—$200,000 for the USVI Interagency Business Process Improvement: Sustaining Gains Project. While past funding supported the creation of a new federal grant planning and setup process for the territorial government, current funding is provided to ensure the successful implementation of the new process through the continued management of the Community of Practice. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024,** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhitespn@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DEELYN MANOSHI CAMACHO KEREMIUS, VINCENT ANTHONY CAMACHO KEREMIUS and JOHN CHRISTIAN CAMACHO KEREMIUS,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0401
Plaintiffs,	:	
-v-	:	
MSJ, LLC,	:	
Defendant.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, who address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filling.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated April 12, 2024, by order of the Court.

/s/
Clerk of Court

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP24-BECQ/DEQ-42400092

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2024
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO CONDUCT CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT TRAINING FOR WATER OPERATORS IN THE FIELD OF WATER TREATMENT (LEVELS 1 THROUGH 4) AND WATER DISTRIBUTION (LEVELS 1 THROUGH 4) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR WITH POSSIBILITY OF RENEWAL THEREAFTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, BY MAY 29, 2024, TO MR. RICHARD V. SALAS VIA EMAIL AT rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

CROWNE PLAZA
AN IHG HOTEL
RESORT SAIPAN
WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS WINNER 2023
Micronesia's Leading Resort
Micronesia's Leading Resort
WANTS YOU
Open Position:
HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT
PART TIME (FIXED TERM 6 MONTHS)
Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan was recognized as Micronesia's Leading Resort in 2023 by the World Travel Awards. Join our team and experience growth with endless possibilities. We provide competitive benefits packages.
Send your CV/Resume to:
hr.cprsaipan@ihg.com or the Human Resources Office

Business

Reyes receives NPCC compliance certification

Triple J Saipan, Inc., a leader in providing quality affordable housing on Saipan, is proud to announce that leasing specialist Beckylynn Reyes has successfully obtained her Novogradac Property Compliance Certification. This prestigious certification underscores Reyes' expertise in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit compliance and affirms her commitment to excellence in the affordable housing sector.

Reyes

The three-day Novogradac Online LIHTC Property Compliance Workshop, led by industry experts, Novogradac & Company LLP, equipped Reyes with the latest knowledge and trends critical to the management of LIHTC properties. The workshop also provided Reyes the opportunity to pass an exam to obtain the NPCC. Her achievement is particularly noteworthy as it demonstrates her dedication to professional development and her ability to adapt to the demanding schedule of the workshop, all while fulfilling her responsibilities at Triple J Saipan, Inc.

The Novogradac Property Compliance Certification is presented to workshop participants who demonstrate a mastery of a wide array of topics, including IRS regulations, tenant certification processes, and state inspection protocols. With nearly a decade of service under her belt, Reyes' new qualification enhances Triple J Saipan's ability to manage LIHTC properties with the highest level of expertise and integrity.

"Beckylynn's certification is a prime example of the dedication and hard work that characterizes our team here at Triple J Saipan, Inc.," said Rachel Roque, Triple J Saipan property manager. "Her expertise not only benefits our company but also qualifying residents of Saipan, ensuring they have access to quality affordable housing. We are incredibly proud of Beckylynn and confident that her contributions will continue to positively impact our community."

"The Novogradac certification represents a significant milestone in my career journey. It's a testament to the dedication and hard work put forth not only by myself but also by the supportive team at Triple J Saipan," said Reyes, humbly reflecting on her achievement.

Triple J Saipan, Inc. is committed to the continuous professional development of its team and to providing exceptional service to the residents of Saipan. Reyes' Novogradac Property Compliance Certification is a reflection of our ongoing dedication to excellence Tropin the affordable housing sector.

Founded in 1985, Triple J Saipan, Inc. has a diverse portfolio that includes real estate, automotive, food retail, and more. Committed to excellence and community development, Triple J Saipan, Inc. strives to provide high-quality services and products to the people of Saipan. ***(PR)***

TikTok sues US to block law that could ban social media platform

TikTok and its Chinese parent company filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging a new American law that would ban the popular video-sharing app in the U.S. unless it's sold to an approved buyer, saying it unfairly singles out the platform and is an unprecedented attack on free speech.

In its lawsuit, ByteDance says the new law vaguely paints its ownership of TikTok as a national security threat in order to circumvent the First Amendment, despite no evidence that the company poses a threat. It also says the law is so "obviously unconstitutional" that its sponsors are instead portraying it as a way to regulate TikTok's ownership.

"For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide," ByteDance asserts in the lawsuit filed in a Washington appeals court.

The law, which President Joe Biden signed as part of a larger foreign aid package, marks the first time the U.S. has singled out a social media company for a potential ban, which free speech advocates say is what would be expected from repressive regimes such as those in Iran and China.

The lawsuit is the latest turn in what's shaping up to be a protracted legal fight over TikTok's future in the United States — and one that could end up before the Supreme Court. If TikTok loses, it says it would be forced to shut down next year.

The law requires ByteDance to sell the platform to a U.S.-approved buyer within nine months. If a sale is already in progress, the company would get another three months to complete the deal. ByteDance has said it doesn't plan to sell TikTok. But even if it wanted to divest, the company would need Beijing's blessing. According to the lawsuit, the Chinese government has "made clear" that it wouldn't allow ByteDance to include the algorithm that populates users' feeds and has been the "key to the success of TikTok in the United States."

TikTok and ByteDance say the new law leaves them with no choice but to shut down by next Jan. 19 because continuing to operate in the U.S. wouldn't be commercially, technologically or legally possible. They also say it would be impossible for ByteDance to divest its U.S. TikTok platform as a separate entity from the rest of TikTok, which has 1 billion users worldwide—most of them outside of the United States. A U.S.-only TikTok would operate as an island that's detached from the rest of the world, the lawsuit argues.

The suit also paints divestment as a technological impossibility, since the law requires all of TikTok's millions of lines of software code to be wrested from ByteDance so that there would be no "operational relationship" between the Chinese company and the new U.S. app.

The companies argue that they should be protected by the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of expression and are seeking a declaratory judgment that it is unconstitutional.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the suit Tuesday. And White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined to engage on questions about why the president continues to use TikTok for his political activities, deferring to the campaign.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Illinois Democrat who is the ranking member of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, issued a statement Tuesday defending the new law.

World

Israel seizes Gaza's vital Rafah crossing

CAIRO (AP)—Israeli troops seized control of Gaza's vital Rafah border crossing on Tuesday in what the White House described as a limited operation, as fears mount of a full-scale invasion of the southern city and talks with Hamas over a cease-fire and hostage release remain on a knife's edge.

» But US says it isn't the full invasion many fear

The U.N. warned of a potential collapse of the flow of aid to Palestinians from the closure the Rafah crossing from Egypt and the other main crossing into Gaza, Kerem Shalom, from Israel, at a time when U.N. officials say northern Gaza is experiencing "full-blown famine."

The Israeli foray came after hours of whiplash in the now 7-month-old Israel-Hamas war, with the militant group saying Monday it accepted a cease-fire proposal that Israel insisted fell short of its own core demands.

The high-stakes diplomatic moves and military brinkmanship left a glimmer of hope for a deal to bring at least a pause in the war, which has killed more than 34,700 Palestinians, according to local health officials, and has devastated the Gaza Strip.

The Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings are critical entry points for food, medicine and other supplies for Gaza's 2.3 million people. They have been closed for at least two days, though the smaller Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza remains open.

By capturing the Rafah crossing, Israel gained full control over the entry and exit of people and goods for the first time since it withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005, though it has long maintained a blockade of the coastal enclave in cooperation with Egypt.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the capture of the crossing an "important step" toward dismantling Hamas' military and governing capabilities, and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would "deepen" the Rafah operation if talks on the hostage deal failed.

Osama Hamdan, a Hamas official based in Beirut, said the militant group would not respond to military pressure or threats and would not accept any "occupying force" at the Rafah crossing.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the operation along the Gaza-Egypt border in eastern Rafah was not a full-on Israeli invasion of the city that President Joe Biden has repeatedly warned against on humanitarian grounds. Kirby said Israel described it as "an operation of limited scale and duration" aimed at cutting off Hamas arms smuggling.

US, Australian, PH forces sink ship during war drills in disputed South China Sea

LAOAG, Philippines (AP)—Military force from the United States, Australian and the Philippines launched a barrage of high-precision rockets, artillery fire and airstrikes to sink a ship Wednesday as part of largescale war drills in waters facing the disputed South China Sea that have antagonized Beijing.

Military officials and diplomats from several countries, along with journalists, watched the display of firepower from a hilltop along a sandy coast in Laoag City on Wednesday in Ilocos Norte, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s northern home province.

More than 16,000 military personnel from the United States and the Philippines, backed by a few hundred Australian troops and military observers from 14 countries were participating in annual combat-readiness drills called Balikatan, Tagalog for shoulder-to-shoulder, which started on April 22 and will end on Friday.

It's the latest indication of how the United States and the Philippines have bolstered a defense treaty alliance that started in the 1950s.

Marcos has ordered his military to shift its focus to external defense from decades-long domestic anti-insurgency operations as China's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea become a top concern. That strategic shift dovetails with the efforts of President Joe Biden and his administration to reinforce an arc of alliances in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China.

China has angered the Philippines by repeatedly harassing its navy and coast guard ships with the use of powerful water cannons, a military-grade laser, blocking movements and other dangerous maneuvers in the high seas near two disputed South China Sea shoals that have led to minor collisions. Those have caused several injuries to Filipino navy personnel and damaged supply boats.

"We're under the gun," Philippine ambassador to Washington Jose Romualdez told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"We don't have the wherewithal to be able to fight all of this bullying coming from China so where else will we go?" Romualdez asked. "We went to the right party which is the United States and those that believe in what the U.S. is doing."

China has accused the Philippines of setting off the hostilities in the disputed waters by encroaching into what it says are its offshore territories, demarcated by 10 dashes on a map. This has often prompted the Chinese coast guard and navy to take steps to expel Philippine coast guard and other vessels from that area. The Philippines, backed by the U.S. and its allies and security partners, has repeatedly cited a 2016 international arbitration ruling based on the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea that invalidated China's claim over virtually the entire South China Sea on historical grounds.

Life & Style

Harvey Weinstein back at Rikers Island jail after hospital stay

NEW YORK (AP)—One-time movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was returned to a New York City jail in what his publicist said Tuesday was the result from a published report claiming he was getting VIP treatment during his 10-day stay at a hospital.

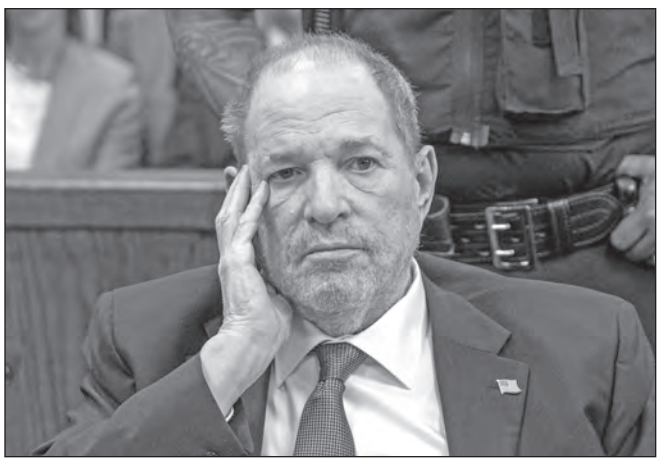
The publicist, Juda Engelmeyer, said Weinstein was moved late Monday from Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan to an infirmary at the city's Rikers Island jail complex.

The move came hours after The City, a nonprofit news outlet, reported that Weinstein was housed in a private room in the hospital's intensive care unit with a television, phone and a bathroom rather than a separate floor where inmates normally reside.

Engelmeyer disputed the account, saying Weinstein "wasn't getting preferential or VIP treatment" and wasn't housed in what could be characterized as a hospital suite. Engelmeyer said he'd been housed on the floor for inmates where everyone has access to a room with phones and a television room.

"He's been moved back to Rikers largely due to pressure, I believe, due to pressure because of the news about what somebody thought was VIP treatment," he said.

Weinstein was brought to Bellevue Hospital only hours after he was transferred on April 26 from the Mohawk Correctional Facility, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Albany, to Rikers less than a day after the New York Court of Appeals vacated his conviction.



AP

Harvey Weinstein appears at Manhattan criminal court for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 in New York.

The appeals court ruled that a Manhattan trial judge permitted jurors to see and hear too much evidence not directly related to the charges he faced, and it ordered a new trial, negating his 23-year prison sentence. However, he remained jailed because he was convicted in Los Angeles in 2022 of another rape and was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

While prosecutors have asked for a September retrial on charges that he forcibly performed oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006 and raped an aspiring actor in 2013, it was unclear if key trial witnesses would return for a new trial. Weinstein has disputed the allegations.

Frank Dwyer, a New York City Department of Correction spokesperson, said Weinstein was originally taken to Bellevue for medical care and was returned to the West Facility, a Rikers Island jail in Queens, when the treatment was completed.

The West Facility houses 140 specially air-controlled housing units for inmates with contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, according to a city website, though the jail has reportedly also been used for inmates that need to be isolated from the general jail population for other reasons.

Police investigating shooting outside Drake's mansion that left a security guard wounded

TORONTO (AP)—Police are investigating a shooting outside rapper Drake's mansion in Toronto that left a security guard seriously wounded.

Authorities did not confirm whether Drake was at home at the time of the shooting, but said his team is cooperating. The shooting happened around 2 a.m. Tuesday in the affluent Bridle Path neighborhood of Toronto.

Toronto Police Inspector Paul Krawczyk said video of the shooting had been recovered and the guard who was wounded remains hospitalized.

In recent weeks, Drake has been engaged in a rap feud with Kendrick Lamar, with each artist dropping diss tracks attacking the other.

Krawczyk was asked whether the feud was a factor in the shooting and he said while investigators are aware of it, it was too early to discuss motive.

AP

Drake poses at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas on May 1, 2019.

Drake, born Aubrey Drake Graham, is one of the best-selling artists of the modern era. He began his career as a child actor on the popular teen program "Degrassi: The Next Generation" before setting his sights on music, dropping some of the most influential albums of any genre in the 2010s: "Take Care," "Nothing Was the Same," and "Views" among them. He's released 13 No. 1 hits across his career, including "God's Plan," "Work" featuring Rihanna, and "One Dance" with WizKid and Kyla.

The "Hotline Bling" performer was named Spotify's most streamed artist of the decade, has won five Grammy awards, and is often credited for ushering in the new era of hip-hop where rappers sing, weaving R&B sensibilities into the genre.

Oprah Winfrey's new book club pick is Colm Tóibín's 'Long Island,' the sequel to 'Brooklyn'

NEW YORK (AP)—Colm Tóibín's "Long Island," the Irish novelist's follow-up to the prize-winning immigrant tale "Brooklyn," is Oprah Winfrey's latest book club pick.

"Long Island," published Tuesday, continues the story of Eilis Lacey, who left Ireland for New York City in the 1950s and is now trapped in an unhappy marriage to Tony Fiorello, the Italian plumber she met in "Brooklyn." Set in the 1970s, the new book begins with Eilis facing the devastating news that Tony has made another man's wife pregnant and that the woman's husband plans to leave the child with her.

"I had so many mixed emotions reading this novel," Winfrey said in a statement. "I was captivated. Tóibín builds the story around a woman whose life changes seemingly overnight with the news of her husband's infidelity. It opens the door to her own secrets, grappling with choices she made long ago, urging her to break free from the silences she built around her life. A wonderful page-turner to start your summer reading."

"Brooklyn," published in 2009, was adapted six years later into an Oscar-nominated movie starring Saoirse Ronan.

Tóibín, 68, is a three-time Booker Prize finalist who has received numerous honors, from the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and International Dublin Literary Award for "The Master," to the Costa Novel Award for "Brooklyn." His other books include "The Testament of Mary," "Nora Webster" and "House of Names."

Showdown looms in marriage over allergies and a friend

DEAR ABBY: I am allergic to a wide range of scents—perfume, cologne, laundry detergent, etc. When I am caught in someone's cloud, my sinuses and lungs burn, which causes instant wheezing and coughing.

My husband's friend bathes himself in a scent akin to household cleansing powder. It's so strong, both of us can smell it in our house for more than a week after he visits. I avoid that friend like the plague and hide at the other end of the house, doors shut, yet I still suffer an allergic reaction. Forgive my being graphic, but his caustic scent gives me a bloody nose.

My husband refuses to tell his friend about the health problems I suffer after his visits. He doesn't want to make him feel unwelcome or upset him by being "rude." What about ME? I can't go near the upholstered furniture the friend sits on for well over a week.

There's no reason in the world why I should suffer in my own home. I'm afraid I'm going to explode in rage the next time he visits, embarrassing all involved. Could you please advise me how to tell the friend he stinks without being rude?

SUFFERING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SUFFERING: It isn't a breach of etiquette to tell someone you have an allergy problem you have been hesitant to discuss for fear of seeming rude. Call the friend BEFORE his next visit and explain that one of the products he is using causes you to have an allergic reaction that results in bloody noses. Then ask that he please not wear it when he's in your home. This may be a conversation that's uncomfortable for you, but to have it is essential.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Ever since our daughter moved out, married and had children, she has become a different person. She doesn't treat my wife like a mom. They used to be close, but now it seems my wife can't do anything right. She can't post pictures of the grandkids when others can, and she can't hug or kiss her grandkids when others can. When asked what she did to be treated this way, my daughter responds, "I don't know."

My wife wants to be a typical grandma and love, spoil and have a relationship with the grandkids, but she keeps being pushed away. I have had it to my wits' end with my daughter because when my wife hurts, so do I. I'm ready to write her off and move on. What are we to do?

FRUSTRATED GRANDPARENTS

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your daughter may fear that her children will love Grandma more than they do her. You might ask your daughter if she would be open to family counseling, but don't be surprised if she isn't. If I'm right about that, then your idea about moving on and finding other interests with your wife to fill that empty space isn't a bad one.

If she craves being around little children and needs to fill the time, perhaps she could volunteer for a program such as Foster Grandparents, in which volunteers work as aides in schools, day care centers, Head Start programs and family support centers. To find out more about them, visit americorps.gov.

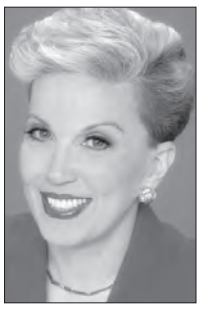
■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

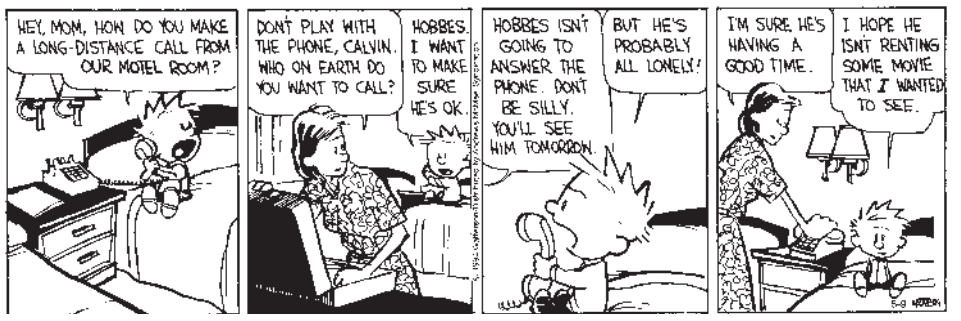


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, MOM, HOW DO YOU MAKE A LONG-DISTANCE CALL FROM OUR MOTEL ROOM?
DON'T PLAY WITH THE PHONE, CALVIN. WHO ON EARTH DO YOU WANT TO CALL?
HOBBES. I WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S OK.
HOBBES ISN'T GOING TO ANSWER THE PHONE. DON'T BE SILLY. YOU'LL SEE HIM TOMORROW.
BUT HE'S PROBABLY ALL LONELY!
I'M SURE HE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME.
I HOPE HE ISN'T RENTING SOME MOVIE THAT I WANTED TO SEE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

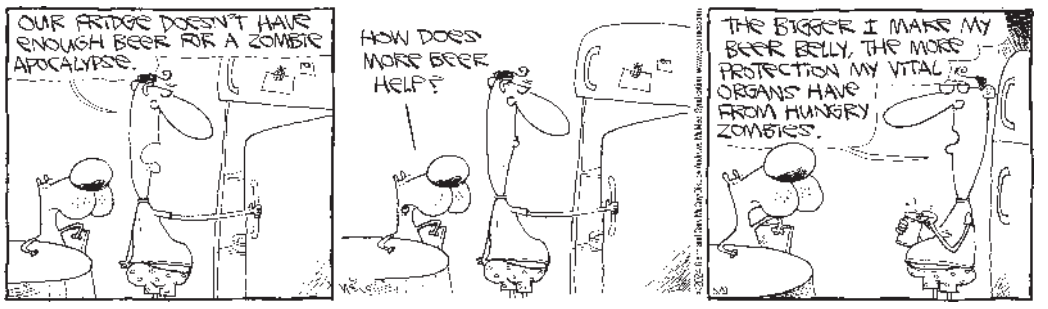
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP.
HA. THAT'S OKAY. YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU HAVE ALL THE OPTIONS IN THE WORLD.
WRITER. CHEF. TEACHER. CLAY MONSTER MAKER. FX MASTER.
NO, I MEANT RICH OR FAMOUS.
I'D GO RICH. ALL THE HATS AND SUNGLASSES WOULD GET OLD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OUR FRIDGE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH BEER FOR A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.
HOW DOES MORE BEER HELP?
THE BIGGER I MAKE MY BEER BELLY, THE MORE PROTECTION MY VITAL ORGANS HAVE FROM HUNGRY ZOMBIES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

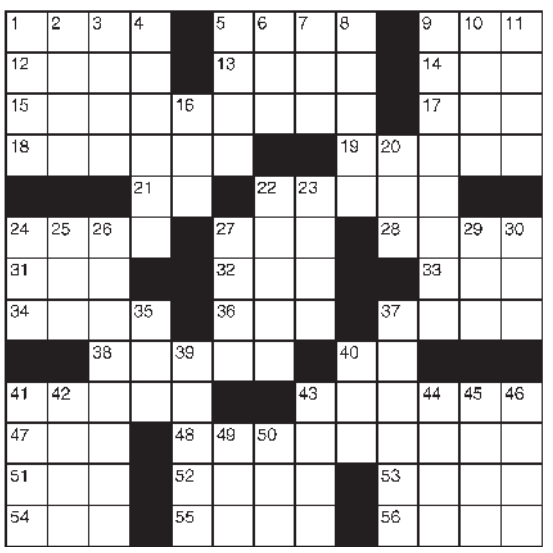
ACROSS
1 Info
5 Fringe benefit
9 Poke
12 Biblical kingdom
13 One-named supermodel
14 "Evil Woman" band
15 "Superfudge" novelist
17 As well
18 Dutch brew
19 Fossil resin
21 Commercial
22 Kind of wave
24 Rembrandt van —
27 Ton fractions (Abbr.)
28 Show ennui
31 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
32 Gmail alternative
33 Corp. boss
34 Goes astray
36 "CSI" find
37 Scratched (out)
38 Finished
40 Bell or Barker
41 Cellist Casals
43 Black belt's specialty
47 Second person
48 Places with smoothie menus
51 Schlep
52 Killer whale
53 "Topaz" author
54 UFO fliers
55 Crystal gazer
56 Showroom sample

DOWN
1 — vu
2 Reunion attendee
3 Tiny amounts
4 "The Joy Luck Club" author
5 Tablet
6 Ostrich's kin
7 Aries
8 Work dough
9 Very dark, as hair color
10 Soap additive
11 Rude dude
16 Garden area
20 Mother's Day month
22 Govt.-issued security
23 Actress Fisher
24 "Kidnapped" monogram
25 King Charles —
26 Late-spring beetles
27 Stow cargo
29 Pint-sized
30 Doze (off)
35 NBC sketch show
37 iPod accessory
39 Martial arts schools
40 Actress West
41 Gomer of classic TV
42 Summer month in Paris
43 1980s Chrysler line
44 Rhine feeder
45 Svelte
46 Canadian gas brand
49 Suffix with press
50 "Rocks"

Solution time: 24 mins.

C	O	R	D		B	R	O		S	W	A	K
A	S	E	A		A	I	M		C	H	I	N
W	H	A	I	L	S	E			R	A	H	E
S	A	M	U	F	I		G	O	A	T	F	F
			M	L	A		A	L	P	O		
I	A	W		S	S	T		D	F	F	O	F
O	C	H	O		T	U	T		D	I	O	R
P	E	A	R	S		B	A	R		T	O	E
		T	A	T	A		R	I	A			
C	R	A	N	E	S		M	O	D	E	L	T
R	I	G	G		W	H	A	T	E	V	E	R
A	G	U	E		A	B	C		L	E	S	E
B	A	Y	S		N	O	S		E	N	T	S

Yesterday's answer 5-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Yzerman, 59; John Corbett, 63; Billy Joel, 75; Candice Bergen, 78.

Happy Birthday: Trust your instincts, and question anything that doesn't feel or sound accurate. A disciplined approach to navigating your life and what you participate in will keep you moving in the right direction. Recognize your limits, set boundaries and take control. Look for positive signs, and adjust your path to minimize backtracking. You have plenty to gain if you listen to your inner voice. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 26, 31, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pace yourself and focus on your goals. Do the work yourself, and accept and enjoy the rewards you deserve. Use your imagination, and you will discover unusual ways to use your skills to overcome barriers. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Self-improvement projects will build confidence and make you feel good about the possibilities and your pursuits. Express yourself and what you can achieve and offer through actions, and you will gain the support you need to bring about positive change and opportunity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Combat anxiety by joining forces with people you know and trust to pitch in and help. Your experience will help you pick and choose what's best for you mentally, physically and emotionally. Abandon projects that are wasting valuable time for minimal return. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be a good listener, but don't buy into someone else's dream. Take what you can from conversations and apply the information to something meaningful. Refrain from letting anger set in or arguments take up precious time. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Someone will consume your energy for their benefit if you are too accommodating. Act on your behalf and progress will be yours. Partnerships are only to your advantage if there is give and take. Map out what's important to you, and don't take unnecessary detours. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Mixed emotions will slow you down. Look for opportunities and adjust what's necessary to gain ground. Pay attention to detail, and present yourself and what you have to offer in your unique way, and you will discover a captive audience with something to contribute. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Follow your passion. Create something that makes you feel good about yourself and will prompt you to do the work necessary to reach your goal. Take better care of your health and your financial well-being. Finish what you start, and avoid outside interference. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll gravitate toward people who are as hard-working as you are. Expand your mind, connections and plans. Attend events offering insight into new possibilities and technology to help you reach your goal. Partnerships look promising. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your thoughts to yourself, listen carefully and don't believe everything you hear. An older family member or domestic issue will burden you if you ignore the signs. Assess situations; protect yourself from anyone taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Educate yourself before you start something new. Being resourceful and keeping up with the latest technology are important. Participate in events that encourage positive change. Find opportunities that can streamline your actions to meet your demands. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Domestic issues will be convoluted. When in doubt, step back and evaluate. Don't disregard your emotions; how you feel will accurately assess what's happening around you. Question everything and everyone, and you'll find it easier to decide what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take your time, watch what's happening around you and adjust to the changes you observe. Refuse to let your emotions take over, leading to a spontaneous or premature move that lacks validity. Slow, decisive action will keep you on the right track and ease your mind. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, curious and original. You are powerful and supportive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	7				5		
	3		2		4		6	
	4				7			3
	5			7				
4	9	6			8	7		
3	7			9	2	6		
9	6	3		2				
		5					2	9
	2		3					

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/9

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	6	8	4	1	5	3	9
5	3	1	2	6	9	8	4	7
4	8	9	7	3	5	2	1	6
1	7	5	3	2	6	4	9	8
9	4	3	1	7	8	6	5	2
8	6	2	5	9	4	1	7	3
2	9	4	6	5	7	3	8	1
3	1	7	4	8	2	9	6	5
6	5	8	9	1	3	7	2	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/8

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESPEOPLE **Solution: 8 letters**

E	B	S	R	E	T	L	I	F	T	E	K	R	A	M
E	S	R	G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G	A	Y	W	P
L	T	I	O	V	E	D	R	A	C	L	R	N	I	R
A	M	A	A	C	B	S	S	U	O	S	E	A	N	O
N	O	R	L	R	H	I	I	S	N	N	P	P	D	F
D	T	P	R	O	D	U	C	T	T	T	A	M	O	I
S	I	I	U	I	C	N	R	H	R	N	I	O	W	L
C	V	S	N	R	O	O	U	E	A	E	R	C	N	E
A	A	G	C	P	C	S	H	F	C	M	V	N	G	N
P	T	E	U	O	I	H	A	C	T	E	I	D	I	I
E	E	O	I	A	U	E	A	L	L	E	S	N	A	Z
L	C	D	S	L	Ⓛ	N	S	S	E	R	I	A	P	A
B	E	T	W	Ⓐ	L	K	T	U	E	G	T	E	M	G
A	I	S	Ⓔ	R	V	I	C	E	O	A	S	L	A	A
C	S	Ⓓ	E	M	O	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	C	M

©2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/9

Advertise, Agreement, Alarm, Brochure, Cable, Campaign, Card, Chocolate, Clean, Company, Contract, Coupon, Deal, Demographic, Discount, Enthusiastic, Filters, Fundraise, Greeting, House, Idea, Landscape, Magazine, Market, Motivate, Product, Profile, Purchase, Repair, Sale, Sell, Service, Siding, Solar, Travel, Visit, Walk, Window

Yesterday's Answer: Sashimi

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Gilgeous-Alexander's 29 points help Thunder roll past Mavs in Game 1

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was his usual self and Luka Doncic wasn't.

Gilgeous-Alexander had 29 points, nine rebounds and nine assists to help the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Dallas Mavericks 117-95 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinal series.

Gilgeous-Alexander made 8 of 19 field goals and 11 of 13 free throws before coming out of the game with 3:26 remaining and the Thunder leading 111-89.

Doncic, an MVP finalist like Gilgeous-Alexander, scored 19 points on 6-for-19 shooting and had five turnovers. He bristled when asked about his shooting.

"Who cares," he said. "We lost. We just got to move onto the next one. We've got to be better."

Lu Dort got most of the work guarding Doncic, with rookie Cason Wallace getting some of the action and 7-foot-1 center Holmgren pestering him near the rim.

Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said Dort, one of the league's best perimeter defenders did his job.

"He's just a warrior," Daigneault said. "Brings the juice every single night. Doncic is a really hard matchup and a great player that didn't have his best pitch tonight. He's going to play better than this. Lu made it hard on him. I thought our team made it hard on him."

Holmgren added 19 points, seven rebounds and three blocks. Jalen Williams struggled with his shot for three quarters but scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth to help Oklahoma City remain unbeaten in the playoffs.

Kyrie Irving scored 20 points and Daniel Gafford added 16 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks for the fifth-seeded Mavericks.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) works the floor against Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving during the first half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, in Oklahoma City.

Game 2 will be Thursday night in Oklahoma City. Daigneault is aware that the Mavericks stole home court from the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 2 of their first-round series. Dallas went on to win that series 4-2.

"I think we can expect them to play better than they did tonight," Daigneault said. "The last thing we're going to do is underestimate this opponent."

The Thunder held the Mavericks to 39.3% shooting and won big, despite being outrebounded 52-39.

Gilgeous-Alexander rested briefly at the start of the second quarter before subbing in at the 8:20 mark. He scored 11 points in the period to help the Thunder take a 62-53 lead at the break. He scored 19 points in the first half, while reserve Aaron Wiggins scored 12 of his 16 points before the break.

Dallas opened the second half on a run, and a 3-pointer by Irving cut Oklahoma City's lead to 66-65 and forced the Thunder to call a timeout.

Isaiah Joe and Dort hit 3-pointers when play resumed, then Dort ripped Doncic, leading to a dunk by Williams that put the Thunder up 74-67. Gilgeous-Alexander's 3-pointer with Doncic in his face put Oklahoma City up 80-69. Irving hit a 3-pointer as the third quarter expired, but the Thunder still led 89-79.

Williams scored eight straight points for the Thunder in a run that put Oklahoma City ahead 102-87, and the Thunder controlled the game from there.

The Thunder set an Oklahoma City playoff record with 29 assists.

"I thought we got a good groove going after kind of a choppy start," Daigneault said. "Really intelligent attacks. We had a good blend of aggression and also taking what the defense gave us, keeping them on their heels, keeping the ball ahead of them. They're really good when you slow down and you allow them to kind of scheme and calibrate."

The Mavericks will need to regroup.

"They're a great team," Doncic said. "Great defensive team, great offensive team. So it's not going to be easy at all. We've got to very good basketball and focused basketball for 48 minutes."

CELTICS 120, CAVALIERS 95

BOSTON (AP)—When Jaylen Brown or Jayson Tatum have it going, it usually means good things for the Boston Celtics.

This postseason, it's also been opening up the floor—and the 3-point line—for Derrick White. That's added a new layer to a team that was already the one to beat in the East.

Brown scored 32 points, White made seven 3-pointers and added 25, and the Celtics powered past the Cleveland Cavaliers 120-95 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of their second-round playoff series.

Tatum finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds to help the Celtics pull away in the second half.

"It feels good. I think the most important thing is to win," White said. "I've said before, it doesn't matter if I score zero or score however many I scored today. When we win, I'm doing enough."

The Cavaliers went 11 of 42 from 3-point range and kept pace early. But the Celtics were even more efficient from the outside, connecting on 18 of 46 from beyond the arc for the game.

It helped Boston carry a 15-point lead into the fourth quarter. The Celtics then started the final period on a 10-2 run to increase their lead to 102-79.

At one point early in the fourth, Brown shot 3 from the top of the key and turned his head before it fell through the hoop, reminiscent of Golden State sharpshooter Stephen Curry.

"I had it rolling tonight," Brown said. "You just want to come out and make the right plays, make the right reads. That's all it is. Playing through your teammates and playing with confidence."

Game 2 is Thursday night in Boston.

The attention on Brown and Tatum has created a myriad of open looks for White throughout the season. White's 28 3-pointers over a six-game span are the most in Celtics playoff history. Boston has also won its past 21 games when he's attempted at least 12 3-pointers.

Donovan Mitchell had 33 points and six assists for the Cavaliers. He is the fourth player in league history to score 30 or more points in six straight playoff series openers, joining Michael Jordan (three times), Kobe Bryant and Wilt Chamberlain.

Gobert wins record-tying 4th Defensive Player of the Year award

Rudy Gobert made some history. Victor Wembanyama nearly did.

Gobert, the Minnesota center, was announced Tuesday as the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year for a record-tying fourth time—joining Basketball Hall of Fame inductees Dikembe Mutombo and Ben Wallace.

It was the fifth time in the last 11 seasons that a French center won defensive player of the year—and it sure seems like Wembanyama will add to that country's total before long. The San Antonio rookie center, announced Monday as the league's Rookie of the Year, was second in the voting and fell one spot short of being the first player to win the DPOY trophy in Year 1 of his NBA career.

Viva la France, indeed. Joakim Noah became the first Frenchman to win DPOY when he was the overwhelming choice in 2014, and Gobert now has the trophies for 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2024.

"It's great teamwork," Gobert, the best defender on a Timberwolves team that had the best defense in the NBA this season, said on TNT during the award's announcement. "We love to get individual awards and all these things, and it's great but you can't do it alone."

It's the ninth time in Gobert's 11 seasons that he has been seventh or better in the DPOY voting. He was second in 2017, third in 2020 and 2022, fifth in 2015 and seventh in 2016—and picked up this trophy one day after missing a playoff game for the birth of his son, Romeo.

"A lot of blessings," Gobert said. "Just really grateful."

Miami center Bam Adebayo was third, his best-ever finish in the voting. He was fourth in 2021 and 2022, along with fifth in 2020 and 2023.

Adebayo—an Olympic gold medalist from 2021 and part of the team that USA Basketball has picked to play in the Paris Games this summer—is the only player to have been in the top five of the DPOY balloting in each of the last five years. He's gotten at least one first-place vote in all five of those seasons, the only player in the NBA who can say that.

Gobert was second in rebounds per game and sixth in blocked shots per game—a category where Wembanyama led the league. The Timberwolves led the NBA this season in fewest points allowed per game. They also held opponents to the lowest field-goal percentage.

"This year, training camp, we came Day 1 and said we wanted to be a top defense in this league," Gobert said. "Every guy has bought in. Everyone has put in the work every single day, and now we're here with one goal in mind, to try to get this championship."

Gobert got 72 first-place votes and 97 votes overall from the panel of 99 writers and broadcasters who cover the league and cast ballots when the regular season ended for various awards.

Wembanyama got 19 first-place votes and appeared on 81 ballots. Adebayo got three first-place votes but held off the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis—who had four first-place nods but finished fourth. New Orleans' Herb Jones was fifth and Boston's Jrue Holiday, who got the other first-place vote, was sixth.

Gobert's win adds to an awards haul this year for the Timberwolves, who are having their best season in 20 years. Minnesota hadn't won a playoff series since 2004 before knocking off Phoenix in Round 1, and now has a 2-0 lead—both wins on the road—over defending NBA champion Denver in the Western Conference semifinals.

"Great things take time," Gobert said. "You guys all know winning is not something that happens overnight. You need to overcome adversity, you need to go through some ups and downs as a group."

Rangers score 10 in the 2nd inning to defeat Athletics

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Marcus Semien had four hits and five RBIs, and the Texas Rangers scored 10 times in the second inning of a 15-8 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday.

Jonah Heim added four hits and two RBIs as Texas extended its season-high win streak to four games, outscoring opponents 37-16 during that stretch.

The Rangers sent 16 batters to the plate in the second in their biggest inning since May 23, 2015, when they also scored 10 in the third against the New York Yankees.

Texas' 15 runs matched a season high, and its 19 hits set a new mark.

Kyle McCann and Seth Brown homered for Oakland, which lost its third straight game after winning six in a row.

AP

Oakland Athletics' Seth Brown watches his three-run home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, in Oakland, Calif.

TIGERS 11, GUARDIANS 7

CLEVELAND (AP)—his first major league hit and three RBIs in his debut for Detroit, leading the Tigers to a win over Cleveland on Tuesday night.

Ibáñez homered on the third pitch of the game from Logan Allen and added a three-run shot in the second. Ibáñez hit a double in the eighth inning and finished 4 for 4 with a walk and four runs.

Vilade, who was recalled earlier in the day from Triple-A Toledo, singled home two runs in the third off Pedro Avila (1-1) and another in the seventh to put the Tigers up 9-7. His first plate appearance and hit as a major leaguer spanned 963 days.

Matt Vierling's two-run single in the eighth helped Detroit open a four-run lead.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Zac Gallen threw six shutout innings in his first start in 11 days and Corbin Carroll had a three-run homer and five RBIs as Arizona dealt Cincinnati a sixth straight loss.

Gallen (4-2) made his first start since April 26 when he left the game early due to a hamstring cramp. The right-hander allowed just one Reds hit through six innings, struck out six and walked three in not allowing a runner past second base.

The woes continued for the Reds, who scored just two runs in the three-game sweep by the Orioles at Great American Ball Park. With Tuesday's loss, Cincinnati fell to three games under .500 for the first time this season.

NATIONALS 3, ORIOLES 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trevor Williams struck out eight in five scoreless innings, and Washington stole four bases in a 3-0 victory over Corbin Burnes and Baltimore, lifting the Nationals above .500 for the first time since July 2021.

Burnes (3-2) allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out six with three walks. He was the first Baltimore starter in four games to allow any scoring at all, and it was the first time in eight games the Orioles allowed more than two runs as a team.

The Orioles lost for just the second time in eight games, and they were shut out both times. Williams (4-0) yielded two hits and no walks, and four relievers pitched an inning apiece, permitting one hit total. Kyle Finnegan worked a perfect ninth for his 12th save in 13 chances.

PHILLIES 10, BLUE JAYS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper hit a grand slam, Cristopher Sánchez pitched seven strong innings and red-hot Philadelphia routed Toronto.

Kody Clemens homered, tripled and drove in four runs for the Phillies, who have won seven straight games, 11 in a row at home and 18 of 21 overall. Philadelphia is leading baseball with 26 victories.

Danny Jansen and Alejandro Kirk each doubled for Toronto. The Blue Jays have lost six of seven.

Sánchez (2-3) gave up one run on six hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

RAYS 5, WHITE SOX 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Zach Eflin allowed one run and six hits in seven innings as Tampa Bay beat the Chicago White Sox 5-1 for their fifth consecutive win.

Eflin (2-4) lost the shutout when Paul DeJong homered with two outs in the seventh.

The right-hander worked out of a bases-loaded, two-out jam in the fifth by getting a flyball from Gavin Sheets on a 3-0 pitch. Eflin also retired Sheets on a grounder with two on and two outs in the seventh.

Randy Arozarena and Isaac Paredes homered for the Rays, who moved over .500 at 19-18.

BRAVES 6, RED SOX 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Marcell Ozuna's run-scoring single in the eighth inning gave Atlanta the lead and the Braves beat Boston to snap a three-game losing streak.

Boston's Kutter Crawford and Atlanta's Reynaldo López each allowed two runs in a matchup of right-handers with ERA's under 2.00.

With the game tied at 2, Boston right-hander Justin Slaten (2-1) walked Ozzie Albies and gave up a single to Austin Riley to open the eighth. With one out, Ozuna bounced a grounder through the infield to drive in Albies for a 3-2 lead. Riley advanced to third on the play and scored on Orlando Arcia's grounder to first, extending the lead to two runs.

Crawford hit Travis d'Arnaud with a pitch in the third inning before Jarred Kelenic pulled a belt-high cutter 368 feet over the high right-field wall for a two-run homer, his first, giving Atlanta a 2-0 lead.

YANKEES 10, ASTROS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Verdugo homered and tied a career high with four RBIs, powering the New York Yankees past Houston.

Anthony Volpe and Giancarlo Stanton also went deep off Verlander as the Yankees won their fourth straight game. Volpe finished with three RBIs and Juan Soto had three hits.

Verdugo accounted for New York's first four runs with a three-run homer in the first and an RBI single in the third against Verlander (1-1). The three-time Cy Young Award winner lasted five innings and gave up seven runs — the second-most he's allowed in 37 regular-season and postseason starts versus the Yankees. He yielded eight runs in Detroit's 13-9 loss on Sept. 1, 2008.

The four-RBI game was the second of the season for Verdugo and the fifth of his career.

Volpe hit a two-run homer in the fourth. Stanton led off the fifth with a 421-foot drive to left field that was clocked at 118.8 mph off the bat. Aaron Judge and Jon Berti also had run-scoring singles for the Yankees.

ANGELS 9, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Kevin Pillar homered twice and drove in six runs, helping Patrick Sandoval and the Los Angeles Angels beat Pittsburgh.

Logan O'Hoppe had four hits and two RBIs for Los Angeles, which had dropped three in a row and five of six overall. Willie Calhoun walked twice and scored three times.

Sandoval (2-5) struck out seven in seven innings in his first win since April 3 against Miami. The left-hander allowed three hits and walked one.

CUBS 3, PADRES 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Busch led off the ninth inning with a game-ending home run, Cody Bellinger went deep in his return from broken ribs and the Chicago Cubs beat San Diego Padres.

Bellinger had three hits after missing two weeks. He gave the Cubs a 1-0 lead when he connected leading off the fourth against Randy Vásquez.

It stayed that way until the eighth, when the Padres got to Shota Imanaga after he sailed through the first seven innings.

He gave up a leadoff single to pinch hitter Luis Arraez before Jurickson Profar chased him with a two-run drive that just cleared the left-field wall. The Padres had a man on third with two out when second baseman Nico Hoerner raced back to make a lunging grab on Xander Bogaerts' bloop, saving another run.

The Cubs tied it in the bottom half when Mike Tauchman walked leading off against Yuki Matsui, took third on Bellinger's single and scored on Christopher Morel's sacrifice fly.

MARINERS 10, TWINS 5

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Josh Rojas and Ty France each hit an RBI single during Seattle's four-run ninth inning, and the Mariners beat Minnesota.

Cal Raleigh connected for a pinch-hit grand slam in the seventh for Seattle, which has won three of four. Mitch Haniger hit a solo homer and a sacrifice fly.

Ryne Stanek (1-0) got two outs for the win after fellow reliever Taylor Saucedo got hurt while covering first base. Andrés Muñoz handled the ninth for his sixth save in seven chances.

METS 7, CARDINALS 5

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Brandon Nimmo hit a three-run homer to spark a six-run fifth inning, and the New York Mets rallied to beat St. Louis.

The Cardinals not only dropped their fourth straight game, but also lost catcher Willson Contreras to a broken left forearm in the second inning after he was hit by J.D. Martinez's swing. Contreras, a three-time All-Star, is hitting .280 with a team-leading six home runs and 12 RBIs.

José Buttó allowed three runs in five innings as the Mets won their second consecutive game. All three runs he permitted came in the first, but Buttó (1-2) retired nine of his last 10 batters. He yielded five hits, struck out three and walked three.

BREWERS 6, ROYALS 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Willy Adames hit a three-run homer into the left-field bullpen with two outs in the ninth inning, helping Milwaukee rally for a victory over Kansas City.

James McArthur (1-2) had retired the first two batters in the ninth when William Contreras began the comeback with a double on a full-count pitch. Gary Sanchez followed with a walk before Adames crushed an 83 mph curveball.

Jared Koenig (3-1) earned the win for Milwaukee, getting Hunter Renfroe to ground out to end the seventh and then surviving a scoreless eighth. Trevor Megill breezed through the ninth to earn his third save in three tries.

Rhys Hoskins and Joey Ortiz hit back-to-back homers off Royals starter Seth Lugo in the second inning, but that was all of the offense the Brewers could muster until the seventh.

GIANTS 5, ROCKIES 0

DENVER (AP)—Kyle Harrison pitched seven scoreless innings and San Francisco scored four runs in a decisive fourth inning despite getting only two balls out of the infield in a victory over Colorado.

Harrison (3-1) gave up four hits, all singles, and struck out two. He has given up one run in his last 18 innings, although this was his first decision in that stretch. He walked two and used only 86 pitches.

The Giants, who snapped a four-game skid, ended an 11-game streak of scoring no more than four runs in one game, a day after manager Bob Melvin held a post-game meeting following a 6-1 loss at Philadelphia.

The Rockies got only two runners as far as second base and have lost three in a row and eight of their last nine, falling to 8-27 and extending the worst start in franchise history.

DODGERS 8, MARLINS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched eight effective innings, Max Muncy hit a grand slam in the first and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Miami for their sixth straight victory.

Gavin Lux launched his first home run of the season for the Dodgers, who have won 13 of 15. They've gone deep 14 times in their past four games.

Yamamoto (4-1) shook off a first-pitch home run to win his third consecutive start. The rookie from Japan allowed two runs and five hits in his longest major league outing.

Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a leadoff homer for the Marlins, who fell to 1-4 on their six-game trip. Bryan De La Cruz also went deep.

Edward Cabrera (1-2) lasted just two innings after throwing 32 of 58 pitches for strikes. He issued four walks and hit a batter with a pitch.

Comeback win for Falcons over Braves, 4-2

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Falcons have won two in a row as they came back to win over the Braves, 4-2, in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

It's been a while since the Falcons touched the dirt of the diamond from their last game on opening night, but they still got their chemistry and skill intact as they bounced back from a two-run deficit early on.

The Braves just came off a no-hitter win last Wednesday and had their sights on keeping their momentum going. They struck first as the heart of their order Heath Camacho and Keoni Serrano scored two runs in the second inning.

However, that was all she wrote as Falcons pitcher A.J. Evangelista went on to pitch the rest of the game in a shutout. While the Braves scrambled to get runners on base and bring them home, the Falcons dug in and got on board with a run by leadoff batter Antonio Norita in the third inning.

Braves pitching held on in the fourth inning but it began to unravel as the Falcons tied it up, 2-2, in the fifth from a run by Ian Norita. The Braves have had only two base runners at this point, and their squeaky-clean record hung in the balance.

Then, the Falcons drew the death blow in the sixth inning when two players got on base from walks and went on to score as a result of faulty Braves defense and pitching. Heading into the last inning, the Falcons had a two-run, 4-2 lead and the Braves tried to rally, but to no avail.

The Braves were handed their first loss for a 2-1 record, while the Falcons secured their second win in as many games.

Last Monday, the Royals destroyed Blue Shark, 10-0. Last night, the Cardinals took on the Natives with the results to be posted in the next issue of Saipan Tribune.

LEIGH GASES
File photo shows Falcons' Darron Pua swing at a pitch during the opening game of the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL season against the Cardinals at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

SHIRLEY

From page 16

Kanoa nil. Kanoa didn't retaliate until Irish Pagarao found an opening later in the game to make it 1-2, but at this point, it seemed like Shirley's would've gotten away with the W.

However, Pagarao said it isn't over until it's over and scored the clutch game-tying goal and eventually ended the match on a 2-2 tie as Shirley's could not find the back of the net in the second half. Despite the draw, Shirley's still scored the most goals in the season and walked away with the title.

With Jeraldine and Casarino in the Shirley's team were Mikayla Lopez, Dianne Pablo, Mae Ito, Jeralyn Castillo, Jhaza Mirano, Gabrielle Race, Rizza Relucio, Toremy Baek, Raven Anderson, Bernadette Horey, Angelika Narvaez, Erish Carreon, Jermaine Gison, Lillian Podziewski, Marielle Lopez, Werlly Breakenridge, and Angel Calage.

NMIFA
Shirley's Football Club keeper Toremy Baek poses with her Golden Glove Award during the awards ceremony of the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA
Shirley's Jannah Casarino poses with her Golden Boot Award for the most goals of the season at 14 during the awards ceremony of the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Casarino won the Golden Boot Award with her 16 goals in the season, while keeper Toremy Baek won the Golden Glove Award.

In the other game that day, Paire forfeited against MP United after MPU put up three goals.

TRIPLE J

From page 16

place in the Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24, 2024.

The donation underscores Triple J's unwavering commitment to fostering athletic excellence and sportsmanship within the Northern Mariana Islands.

"At Triple J, we firmly believe in the power of sports to inspire, unite, and uplift communities," said Robert Jones, chairman and CEO of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. "By supporting our CNMI athletes on their journey to the 2024 Micronesian Games, we are investing in the future of sports and the development of our youth."

Jones also thanked NMSA chair Jerry Tan for his decades of untiring leadership and dedication in promoting local and regional sports. "Our community is indeed grateful and fortunate for Jerry's and NMSA's good work," he added.

Triple J vice president Mike Sablan echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of providing athletes with the necessary resources to compete at the highest level. "As a proud member of the Northern Marianas community, Triple J is honored to contribute to the success of our local athletes," said Sablan. "This donation reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting health, wellness, and sporting excellence across the region."

NMSA board members and Team Marianas representatives expressed gratitude for Triple J's generous contribution, recognizing the significant impact it will have on the CNMI Team's preparation and participation in the Micronesian Games.

Tan commended Triple J's support, stating, "We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Triple J for their generous donation, which will play a vital role in supporting our CNMI athletes as they represent our islands on the regional stage. Together, we are strengthening the bonds of sportsmanship and pride within our community and across Micronesia."

With the Micronesian Games fast approaching, Triple J remains committed to empowering local athletes and promoting the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie across the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

MHS

From page 16

Nuyles had a commanding 21-12 win in the first set.

The Manta Rays put up a better fight in the second, but still succumbed to the Dolphins' stronger offense and unbreakable chemistry. In a pinch, the Dolphins kept their undefeated record with a 21-14 final set win.

In one of the final games of the night, the Geckos stuck the landing with their seventeen win as they defeated Grace Christian Academy Eagles in also two fast sets.

SIS' powerful overhead spikes and overpowering kills allowed them to scoop up the first set, 21-11. They took their momentum in the second set as a much better prepared Eagles team tried to force a tie-breaking third set.

However, SIS' rotating roster of Omari Joab, Casey Chambers, Sui Yi, Christian Newman, Ian Song, William Sosa, Dwight Crisostomo, and Kyle Kramer dealt the Eagles blow after winning blow.

Before GCA knew what hit them, the Geckos took the second set, 21-12, and solidified their second place spot heading into the playoffs.

In other results that day, MHS III bested SIS II, 21-10, 21-17; Agape Christian School II toughed out three sets against KHS II, 18-21, 21-19, 15-10; MHS II beat SSHS II, 21-11, 21-14; and ACS routed KHS, 21-12, 23-21.

The championship series is set for today, tomorrow, and Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Marco magnificent in RGA April tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Marco Peter ruled the Refaluwasch Golf Association April Ace of the Month Tournament held last April 20 at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The RGA president shot an impressive net score of 69 following a gross of 72. The 51-year-old import business owner and former lawmaker fired a 37 in the front nine and a 35 in back nine. He had a total of five birdies on holes No. 2, 3, 7, 13, and 17 and an eagle on hole No. 14

"The course was dry and windy with gusts up to 25 mph. My best hole was No. 16. I drove my ball into the water off the tee, so I took a drop. Then I hit my third shot into the front bunker. I told myself that I had to par out on this hole to stay close to the higher handicaps who were chasing me. I flopped my bunker shot to about 6 inches for a tap in for par," he said.

As for the hole he'd ask for a mulligan, "Hole No. 9. I was driving my tee shot to about 25 yards to the front of the green and not being able to birdie the hole wasn't good."

The defending RGA Ace of Aces champion can now heave a big sigh of relief that he has qualified for the yearend tourney, which is becoming harder and harder with higher handicap players perennially winning monthly tourneys.

"I dedicate this April ace to the lower handicappers (9 and below) who need to shoot lights out and go low in order to have a chance of capturing a monthly ace. Being an ace in the toughest golf association is a big deal and I look forward to our yearend Ace of Aces where I get to try and defend my title, which only a couple of guys have been able to do," said Peter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marco Peter qualified for the Refaluwasch Golf Association Ace of Aces Tournament after topping the April Ace Tournament last April 20 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Domingo Atalig finished second with a line of net 72, gross 80, and front and back nines of 39-41, while Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho completed the Top 3 with his net 74 built around a gross of 82 and a 39-43.

In the closest to the pin competition, Tony Satur was without peer on holes No. 3 and 17, while Jack Sablan and Joseph Sasamoto ruled holes No. 7 and 13, respectively.

With the April win, Peter now joins Cameron San Nicolas (January), Sherlyn Jones (February), and Tars Olopai (March) in the yearend RGA Ace of Aces Golf Tournament.

Gilgeous-Alexander's 29 points help Thunder roll past Mavs in Game 1
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Comeback win for Falcons over Braves, 4-2
PAGE 15

Shirley's are Premier League champs

NMIFA

Shirley's Football Club posts for a group photo after their title win in the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club cooked up something special this season as they put up the most goals and won the title of the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier Division) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League.

In their final game last Sunday, they tied it up, 2-2 against Kanoa FC to grab first place by a total of 32 goals all season.

Kanoa had the second spot with 29 goals in the season, while MP United was third with 19 goals.

In the standings, Shirley's and Kanoa had an equal 6-1-1 record, while MP United was at 5-0-3.

Shirley's had the advantage early after a goal ripped past Kanoa's keeper in the 14th minute by Jeraldine Castillo. Kanoa struggled to keep up on the pitch as Shirley's looked to strike a second time.

Jannah Casarino then made it happen just four minutes later and it was Shirley's 2,

See SHIRLEY on Page 15

Triple J makes $10K donation to Team Marianas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives from the Northern Marianas Sports Association, game officials, coaches, and Triple J management gather for a check presentation, highlighting Triple J's $10,000 donation to help cover transportation and lodging costs of local athletes participating in the upcoming Micronesian Games, scheduled to take place in the Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24, 2024. Standing left to right: Alex Sablan, NMSA director; Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Northern Marianas Athletics official; Fred Camacho, Triple J Business Development manager; Frank Ada, Triple J HR director; Kina Peter, CPA, Triple J Corporate controller; Jose Mafnas, Jr., Triple J Corporate counsel; Robert Jones, Triple J chairman/CEO; Pilar Jones; Jerry Tan, NMSA president; Ron Olopai, NMA official; Mike Sablan, Triple J VP Finance & Administration; John Davis, NMSA director; John Hirsh, NMSA treasurer; and representatives of the NMI weightlifting and fast-pitch softball teams.

Triple J Saipan proudly announces its generous contribution of $10,000 to the Northern Marianas Sports Association to help cover transportation and lodging costs of local athletes participating in the upcoming Micronesian Games, scheduled to take

See TRIPLE J on Page 15

MHS, SIS lead boys v-ball heading into the playoffs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School Dolphins and Saipan International School Geckos lead the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 heading into the playoffs after their wins in the last regular season game last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins came out of the regular season unscathed as they won their eighth game over Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays in two swift sets.

MHS' rotating roster of Jerome Manzon, Nehemiah Coleman, Yeshaiah Coleman, Kyle Sang Hyun Moon, Mokyang Kim, Juruel Magtalas, Lowell Lumauag, and K.C.

See MHS on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Omari Joab delivers a powerful kill past two Grace Christian Academy defenders during their last regular season game last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium to end the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at 7-1 heading into the playoffs.